*Lieut.-Colonel Berton W. Sibley*

# HISTORY OF THE THIRD BATTALION

## SIXTH REGIMENT, U. S. MARINES

COMPILED FROM THE OFFICIAL RECORDS KEPT BY THE BATTALION HISTORIAN— AND OPERATIONS REPORTS COVERING ALL OF THE ENGAGEMENTS IN WHICH THIS BATTALION PARTICIPATED

Maps by the
Battalion Intelligence Section

Published by
AKERS, MAC RITCHIE & HURLBUT
Hillsdale, Michigan
1919

# CONTENTS

HALF-TONE

LIEUT.-COLONEL BERTON W. SIBLEY Frontispiece

LIST OF OPERATIONS

Page

VERDUN SECTOR (Toulon Sub-sector) . . 8

CHATEAU-THIERRY SECTOR . . . . . 11

SOISSONS SECTOR . . . . . 31

ST. MIHIEL SALIENT . . . . . 54

CHAMPAGNE (Blanc Mont) . . . . . 67

MEUSE-ARGONNE . . . . . 95

MARCH TO THE RHINE . . . . . 114

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025

https://archive.org/details/bwb_S0-ATP-696

# PREFACE

After receiving numerous requests for copies of the Third Battalion history, and after Sergeant Major Robinson had written two sets of five copies each on the typewriter it became evident that if every man who wanted and deserved a copy of the history of his battalion during the late war, secured one this history would have to be printed. After a great deal of thoughtful discussion Lieut. MacRitchie, former Battalion Quartermaster and Lieut. Charles F. Hurlbut, formerly of the 84th Company, both of whom have been with the battalion throughout the major portion of its history, convinced me that the history not only can be printed and put out in convenient form but that it is really a duty that the custodians of the battalion records owe to the members of the battalion.

With this thought in mind Lieut. MacRitchie, Lieut. Hurlbut and myself formulated the plan and prepared to put it through. A preliminary canvass of the men aboard the Wilhelmina disclosed the widespread desire for copies of the history among the present members of the battalion. It is only reason-

able to suppose that it will be equally well received by the other members of the Battalion who came home ahead of us.

A history of this kind, to be of value, must be as accurate as the exigencies of war permit. This accuracy has been reached chiefly through the continuous and untiring efforts of Captain David Bellamy, former adjutant of the Battalion, who worked unceasingly to make the operations report after each engagement as accurate and complete as humanly possible. As the history is largely a collection of these operations reports our debt to Captain Bellamy can be easily seen. The first operations report for the period from June 1st to August 10th, was written by Captain Bellamy and corrected and edited by Major Sibley. The next report covered St. Mihiel and was also written by Captain Bellamy, who wrote the report for Champagne before he was evacuated to the S. O. S. with an advanced case of Influenza. After the evacuation of Captain Bellamy it became my task as his successor, to write the report for the Argonne-Meuse and fill in the connecting matter and brief report of the return and demobilization of the battalion. The data for this I secured from my personal diary, from the Battalion file of orders and from records kept by Sgt. Ray E. Babcock, the Battalion historian.

This work is concise, has no elaborate descriptive matter, and may appear to be unnecessarily cold, but it is believed that the plain narrative with accurate dates, hours and places will be the thing most desired

in the years to come, and that memory will supply the cloak to cover these naked facts.

To Major Berton W. Sibley belongs the credit for the supervision of the first operations report covering as it did the two largest operations the battalion ever participated in. This ground work served as a standard upon which all later reports and the history itself were built and the entire work is dedicated to him.

HERBERT H. AKERS

Chicago, Ill., 1919.

# HISTORY OF THE THIRD BATTALION

The Third Battalion of the Sixth Regiment was organized at Marine Barracks, Quantico, Virginia, August 1, 1917, with Major Berton W. Sibley in command. The companies composing the battalion were the 82nd, Captain Dwight F. Smith commanding; the 83rd, Captain Albert R. Sutherland commanding; the 84th, Captain Harry G. Bartlett commanding; and the 97th, Captain Robert W. Voeth commanding. The roster of officers at time of embarkation for overseas was as follows:

**STAFF**

Sibley, Berton W.....Major
Commanding
Hicks, Frederick I.....Second Lieutenant
Battalion Adjutant

**84th Company**

Bartlett, Harry G.....Major
Company Commander
Smith, Mark A.....First Lieutenant
Second in Command
Maynard, Charles B.....First Lieutenant
1st Platoon Commander
Mason, Horatio P.....First Lieutenant
4th Platoon Commander
Kalbfleisch, Edw. D.....Second Lieutenant
2nd Platoon Commander
Perkinson, Allan C.....Second Lieutenant
3rd Platoon Commander

**82nd Company**

Smith, Dwight F.....Captain
Company Commander
McFarland, Hugh .....First Lieutenant
Second in Command
Roberts, Charles D.....Second Lieutenant
1st Platoon Commander
Bellamy, David .....Second Lieutenant
4th Platoon Commander
Smallman, Clinton I.....Second Lieutenant
2nd Platoon Commander
Robinson, Caldwell C.....Second Lieutenant
3rd Platoon Commander

**97th Company**

Voeth, Robert W.....Captain
Company Commander
Muckleston, Stanley M.....Captain
Second in Command
McEvoy, Thomas T.....First Lieutenant
1st Platoon Commander
Marshall, Ralph W.....Second Lieutenant
4th Platoon Commander
Moore, William B.....Second Lieutenant
2nd Platoon Commander
Skelton, Albert G.....Second Lieutenant
3rd Platoon Commander

**83rd Company**

Sutherland, Albert R.....Captain
Company Commander
Noble, Alfred H.....First Lieutenant
Second in Command
Holloday, Davis A.....First Lieutenant
1st Platoon Commander
MacRossie, Allan, Jr.....Second Lieutenant
4th Platoon Commander
Murphy, Richard W.....Second Lieutenant
2nd Platoon Commander
Timmerman, Louis F., Jr.....Second Lieutenant
3rd Platoon Commander

Organized with Company Commanders and senior non-commissioned officers from the old Marine Corps school of experience and junior officers and men from the recruit depot at Paris Island, S. C. and Mare Island, California, the training of the battalion for service on the Western front began. This training included close order drill, skirmish drill by platoon and company, trench digging; erecting barbed wire

entanglements, signalling of all kinds, and rifle practice. The rifle and machine gun practice took place on the newly completed Quantico Rifle Range. Practice marches and open warfare maneuvers were interspersed with the specialty training and the men hardened to the game which was to become their lot in France.

At 9:30 a. m., October 24, 1917, the battalion began its journey to France, travelling by train to Philadelphia where the troops were embarked on the U. S. S. Von Steuben, then lying at anchor in the Delaware River off League Island.

At 5:00 a. m. October 25th, the Von Steuben weighed anchor and sailed, arriving off Tompkinsville, in New York harbor, at 9:00 a. m., October 26th. Here the ship remained at anchor five days but no one was allowed to go ashore and all mail was carefully censored. Absolute secrecy was maintained as to the time set for departure and as to the destination. The remaining ships of the convoy, three transports, one armored cruiser (North Carolina) and two destroyers, gathered within the next few days and at 7:00 p. m., October 31, the convoy moved out on its way to France.

The weather was unusually fair and all went well until 6:13 p. m., November 9th, when, due to a misunderstanding of orders, the Agamemnon and the Von Steuben collided, making a large hole in the bow of the Von Steuben. This occurred in the edge of the submarine zone and the ships of the convoy were ordered to separate and meet the following day. Af-

ter steaming all night alone at seven knots per hour, her bow in the air, to keep the hole above the water line, temporary repairs were made, the remainder of the convoy was picked up and at noon the group continued the trip at 15 knots. Later in the day ten destroyers from the American fleet in European waters joined the convoy and the North Carolina turned back for the United States. The journey through the submarine zone was made without further accident and early November 12th, land was sighted. At noon the convoy dropped anchor in the harbor of Brest, France.

While awaiting debarkation orders and transportation to the final destination the Battalion Commander ordered one company ashore each day for a practice march. November 17th the 83rd and 84th Companies with Battalion Headquarters paraded in Brest. Early Monday morning, November 19th, the troops disembarked and entrained in a French troop train which left at 12:30 p. m. on the Chemin de Fer de L'Ouest Southward, arriving at Lormont, France, a suburb of Bordeaux, at midnight, November 20, 1917.

The Battalion here rejoined the regimental headquarters 73d and Supply companies and was assigned to duty with the 18th Engineers building docks at Bassens. The following detachments were dealed for provost and engineer duty in the neighboring camps and towns: Captain Voeth Provost Marshal Tours, November 27-January 21; First Platoon, 97th Company, Provost duty, Tours, November 27-January 21, Lieut. Skelton in command; the 84th Company, Pro-

vost and fatigue duty La Corneau, December 18-January 5th, Major H. G. Bartlett, commanding; Lieutenant Marshall and twenty men from the 97th Company, La Cortine December 8th to January 5th, fatigue and provost duty; Lieutenant Timmerman and 30 men, 83rd Company, Marche Prime December 6th to January 4th, fatigue duty; Lieutenant Roberts and 1st Platoon 82nd Company, Cenon, provost duty, December 27th to January 6th.

The regiment was relieved by the 162nd Regiment Inf. (Montana National Guard) on January 8th and entrained January 9th, 1918, at Carbon Blanc for the Second Division training area. After a three day trip in 3rd class and box cars the troops were detrained at Damblain, Haute Marne, January 12, 1918 and marched to Chaumont-la-ville, a distance of five kilometers. Here intensive training for trench and open warfare began at once. This training was very severe due both to strenuous schedule and the winter season which set in in earnest about this time. However, gruelling as it seemed then, it so hardened the men that they were able to bear up under the strain of continuous fighting which later became the lot of the Second Division. The schedule included hikes, close order drill, extended order, bayonet fighting, games, practice in both rifle and hand grenade throwing, rifle range practice, storming trench systems, taking strong points, defense against gas attacks and all modes of signalling then in use. Steel helmets were received shortly after arrival in this area and included in the uniform for drill in order to accus-

tom the men to wearing them at all times when in the line. A great deal of gas defense drill was included in the schedule and men were required to shoot, march, throw grenades and perform every possible duty with the masks on.

In March, trench knives, extra clothing, etc. were received and issued, preparations were made for storing extra baggage, and men only allowed to keep what clothing they could carry in their packs.

Orders were received that the Second Division was going in line just south of Verdun for thirty days, training under fire, and on March 14th the battalion marched to Breuvannes and entrained for the front, moving at 9:42 p. m.

## HOLDING TRENCHES, VERDUN SECTOR

### (Toulon Sub-Sector)

#### FIRST CASUALTIES

Arriving at Dugny, 10 kilometers from Verdun, at noon, March 15th, the battalion detrained and moved out by companies as quickly as possible. Orders were to clear loading platform within two hours to avoid shelling.

After walking approximately 16 kilometers to the support position of the Toulon sector, companies were billeted in the following camps: 82nd Co., Camp Richert and Camp Rondo Fontaine; 83rd Co., Camp Marquenterre; 84th Co., Camp Massa; 97th Co.,

Camp Fontaine St. Robert; Battalion Headquarters, Camp Ronde Fontaine.

The battalion went into line in the C. R. Mont-sous-le-Cotes, sub-sector Bonchamp the evening of March 18th, 82nd, 83rd, 84th Companies in line, the 97th Company in reserve at Camp Fontaine St. Robert.

Being relieved March 28th by the 2nd battalion, 6th Marines, the battalion marched to Sommedieue for billet, arriving at daylight March 29th. Ordered to march on the 31st, 82nd and 84th Cos. and Battalion Headquarters moved at dark four kilometers to Camp Douzains; 83rd Co. going to Camp Sommedieue and 97th Co. going to Camp Eveche.

Remained here working on defenses, building entanglements and digging trenches until April 7th.

At dark April 7th the battalion relieved the Second battalion, 6th Marines in C. R.† Mont-sous-le-Cotes, three companies in line and one in reserve.

Without incident until the night of April 20-21, when Germans after putting down a box barrage around the outpost town of Villers, attacked P. P.* '16 at 1:00 a. m. with flame-throwers, grenades, and knives, about thirty men being seen. This raid was repulsed by rifle fire and grenades in the hands of the men assigned to this post, the Germans leaving two dead in our wire.

Relieved night of April 24th by 3rd battalion, 20th French. Marched to reserve position at Camp Chiffoure.

†Center of resistance. *Petit post.

May 1, sent one officer and two NCO's. from each company to 1st Corps Schools at Gondrecourt.

May 2 relieved the 1st battalion, 6th Marines in strong point Haudiomont with two companies in the line, one in support and one in reserve at Camp Chiffoure. Battalion Headquarters and support Co. 84th at P. C.‡ Bordeaux. The battalion spent a quiet ten days in this sub-sector.

May 9th Lieut. Marshall and four NCO's. left to secure billets in a new area.

May 13th relieved by a battalion of the 174th French. Marched to Haudainville, arriving at 2:00 a. m. Remained here until 1:00 p. m. May 14th when battalion marched to Ancemont and entrained. Departed 6:30 p. m.

### TRAINING

Arriving at Blesmes (Marne) at 3:30 a. m. May 15th, the battalion marched without breakfast to new training area. Battalion Headquarters, 83rd and 84th Cos. were billeted at Vavray-le-Petit, the 97th Co. being billeted with Regimental Headquarters at Doucey and the 82nd Co. in Vavray-le-Grande.

Training schedule was put into effect and followed until May 19th. The 97th Co. was assigned as a loading detail for the 2nd Division and proceeded to Vitry-le-Francois May 16th.

On May 19th at 10:00 p. m. the 82-83-84th Companies and Battalion headquarters marched to Vitry-le-Francois, a distance of 17 kilometers, arriving at

‡Post de command.

4:30 a. m. Breakfast was served at 5:00 a. m. on loading platform and entire battalion entrained and left at 5:30 a. m.

At 5:55 p. m. May 20th, arrived at l'Isle-Adam and detrained, marching to Nesle-le-Ville, five kilometers distant, for billets.

Marched at 8:00 a. m. May 21st, arriving at Marines at 4:44 p. m. where battalion billeted for the night.

May 22nd marched at 6:00 a. m., arriving at Montagny-en-Vexin at 10:30 a. m. and billeted together with the 2nd Battalion, remaining there until May 31.

A training program including divisional terrain exercise was carried out. Men were issued clothing and equipment and the battalion was put in first class condition in all respects.

### OPERATIONS CHATEAU-THIERRY SECTOR

The 30th of May, 1918, found the Third Battalion, Sixth Marines, stationed at Montagny-en-Vexin. Regimental Field Order No. 2, of that date contemplated a march movement to a new area to begin at 11:00 a. m., on the 31st. The following order was received at 6:00 p. m. on the 30th:

"Headquarters, Sixth Regiment,
Marine Corps, A. E. F.,
France, 30 May 1918.

MEMORANDUM:

1. Advance information official received that this Regiment will move at 10:00 p. m. 30 May by bus to new area. All trains shall be loaded at once and arrangements hastened. Orders will follow. Wagons

when loaded will move to Serans to form train.

By order of Colonel Catlin:

F. E. Evans, Major, U. S. M. C.,
Adjutant."

Sometime after 10:00 p. m. same date, this regimental memorandum was received:

"The 3rd Battalion will take Camions at Serans at 4:45 a. m. tomorrow, 31 May, for 8 hour trip. Destination Meaux."

At 3:00 a. m. battalion left Montagny for Serans where a hot breakfast was served from the kitchens which had been sent ahead. Camions were boarded at 8:30 a. m. After a day and night in the trucks Montreuil-aux-Lions was reached on the morning of June 1st. After a few hours of rest the battalion started for the front along the Chateau-Thierry-La-Ferte road. Outside of Montreuil the Battalion Commander received verbal orders to take up a position in the woods northeast of La Voie du Chatel. This was done and the night spent there. The French in front were falling back.

The next day, June 2nd, the companies were more advantageously placed and an effort made to get in better touch with the situation. Enemy shelling continued and that afternoon the battalion suffered its first casualties on the Chateau Thierry front; two men were killed and twelve men were wounded. At about 5:00 p. m. the following order was received:

"From: C. O. 6th Regt.
At: P. C. la Voie Du Chatel.

To: C. O. Third Battalion.

Be prepared send fresh Co. to LaCense Farm to report Holcomb as reserve. German fresh Division expected to attack American right with two regiments north of Paris road and one south.

F. E. E."

The 97th Company was sent to report to Major Holcomb in accordance with this order.

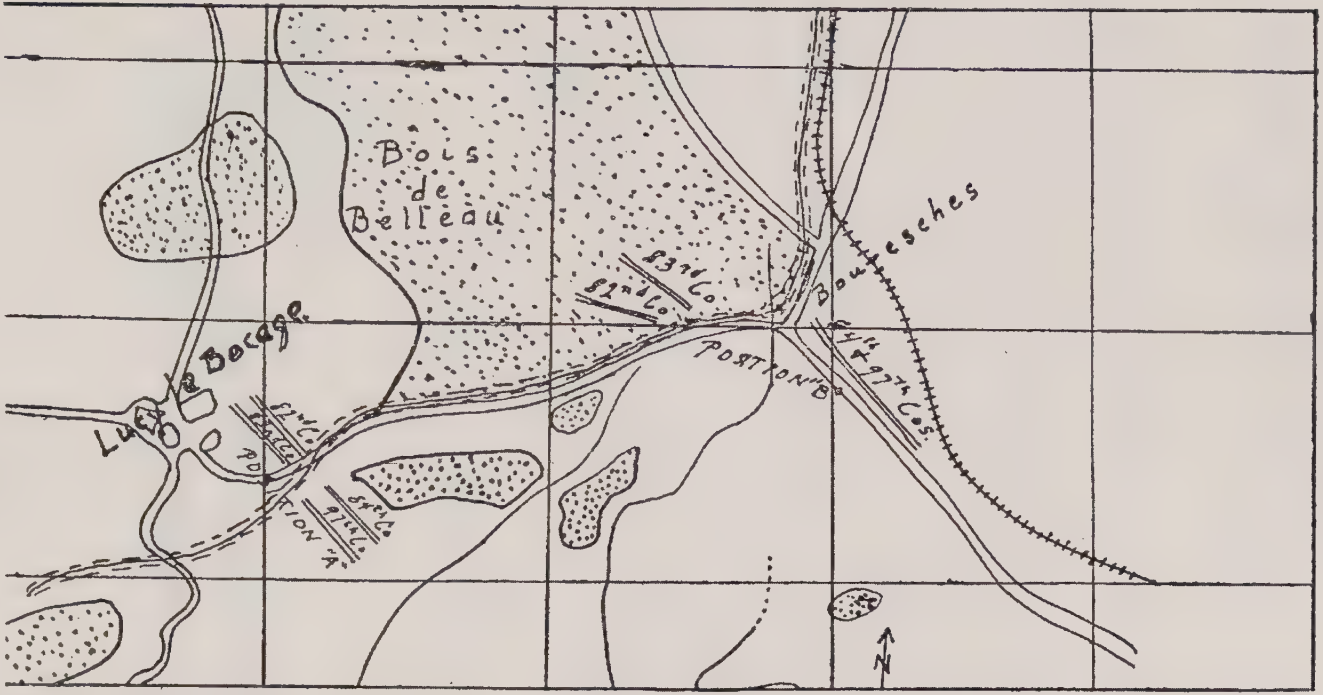
In accordance with regimental orders the night of June 2nd was spent in the open field east of the woods and north of the Voie-du-Chatel—Lucy-le-Bocage road to escape the barrage it was thought the enemy would put down on la Bois-du-Chatel at night-fall. At break of day position was again taken up in la-Bois-du-Chatel, this time along Champillon-la-Voie-du-Chatel road. Heavy shelling during the entire day which resulted in several casualties among battalion scouts and 84th Company. About noon the 82nd Company was sent to re-enforce the front line northeast of Champillon and east of point 142. This company had several casualties, including four men killed, while taking up position.

At dark Battalion Headquarters, 83rd Company and one platoon of the 73rd Machine Gun Company moved up and joined 82nd Company south of Torcy, Major Sibley taking command of that portion of the line running from point 142 for about one thousand yards in an easterly direction. The line on this front was in most places along edge of the woods, at some points the enemy was in the same woods and about fifty yards distant. The enemy artillery and machine

guns were active during the afternoon and night. The next morning, June 4th, the Battalion Commander further reconnoitered the situation and found the French had left a portion of the line on our right unoccupied. After a conference with Major Shearer, a portion of the First Battalion of the Fifth Regiment and some machine guns were sent to fill the gap. The enemy artillery, machine guns and snipers were active during the entire day but our casualties were not heavy. The 84th Company which had been left in la-Bois-du-Chatel suffered some casualties from artillery fire. On June 5th conditions continued much the same as on previous day. The day was spent in digging in and strengthening our position. During the early morning hours the enemy launched a mild attack but were repulsed by our fire without serious losses to us. After daylight and during the day enemy was seen from time to time and our snipers reported to have done effective sniping. About nine p. m. on June 5th the following order was received:

"C. O. 3rd Battalion.

Your battalion will be relieved sometime tonight by Turrill's Battalion, when 82nd and 83rd Companies are relieved you will proceed via Champillon via present Regimental Headquarters to Ferme Blanch where your Battalion will go in reserve. Orders will be given the C. O. 84th Co. and 97th Co. to report to you at Ferme Blanche. The platoon 73rd Co. will remain in place. Guide will be found




Map 1—Lucy-le-Bocage, Bois de Belleau, Bouresches; (Chateau-Thierry Sector) Position "A"—Jump-off, 5 . m. 6 June, 1918 Position "B"—10 p. m. 6 June, 1918

at Regimental Headquarters, Colonel's office, to conduct you to Ferme Blanche. By order

F. E. E."

8:05 p. m.

Will send in Spalding's rations by Ford with his runner on Ford."

At 3:00 a. m. morning of June 6th the First Battalion of the Fifth launched an attack through a portion of our line, two platoons 83rd Company holding the line until they advanced, this attack brought in fierce machine gun fire from the enemy but the 82nd and 83rd Companies were able to withdraw without serious losses. By daylight on the morning of the 6th the relief was completed. The day up to 3:00 p. m. was spent at Maison Blanche Ferme on the Chateau Thierry—La Ferte road, the Battalion less 3 platoons, 97th Co. who joined us at about 5:00 p. m. having assembled there. By 3:00 p. m. the battalion was under way in accordance with the following order:

Headquarters, 4th Brigade,
Marine Corp, A. E. F., 6 June,
1918; 2:05 p. m.

FIELD ORDER
No. 2

MAP: MEAUX 49
1:50,000

1. The enemy holds the general line Bouresches-Torcy-Montecourt.
2. This Brigade attacks on the general line Bouresches-Torcy.

3. The attack will be in two phases:
To take the Bois de Delleau
To take R. R. Station Bouresches; Bouresches village; brook crossing (173.9-264.1); Hill 126; Hill 133.

(a) Disposition of troops for the first phase. The Bois de Belleau will be taken by the 3rd Bn. 5th Marines (less 1 Co.) on the left and the 3rd Bn. 6th Marines on the right. The attack, first phase, will be commanded by Colonel Catlin, 6th Marines.

(b) Sector limits, 1st phase, left battalion:
Northern: 262.8
Southern: 261.2
Right Battalion:
Northern: 261.2
Southern: 260.8

(c) The 2nd Bn. 6th Marines will advance its left to conform to the progress made by the battalion on its left.

(d) Disposition of troops for the second phrase. The position R. R. station Bouresches; Bouresches Village, Brook Crossing (173.9-264.1); Hill 126; Hill 133, will be taken by the 3rd Bn. 6th Marines, on the right, the 3rd Bn. 5th Marines, (less 1 co.) in the center and the 1st Bn. 5th and 1 Co. each of the 2nd Bn. and 3rd Bn. 5th Marines.

(e) Sector limits, 2nd phase:
3d Bn. 6th Marines.
Northern: Hill 181; R. R. Bridge. (177.0-261.3)
Southern: Hill 138 southern end of Bouresches Village.
3rd Bn. 5th Marines (less 1 Co.)
Northern: Hill 133 to Bouresches-Torcy Road at intersection with Y line at 176.

Southern: Hill 181; R. R. Bridge, (177.0-261.3) exclusive.

1st Bn. 5th Marines and 1 Co. each of 2nd and 3rd Bns. 5th Marines.

Northern: Square Wood to brook crossing (173.9-264.1) and Hill 126.

Southern: From right at present position to Hill 133, exclusive.

(f) The attack of the center and right of the second phase will be commanded by Colonel Catlin, 6th Marines.

The attack of the left of the second phase will be commanded by Lieut. Col. Feland, 5th Marines.

(g) the attack on the Bois de Belleau and on the village and railroad station of Bouresches will be supported by the 77th (M.G.) Co. The attack on the brook crossing (173.9-269.1) 126-133, inclusive, will be supported by the machine guns now with the 1st Bn. 5th Marines.

(x) The artillery preparation will be made in accordance with orders from the C. G., 2d F. A. Brigade.

(y) The attack on Bois de Belleau will begin at 5 p. m. The second phase will begin as soon as the first phase has attained its objective.

(z) Aviation will be ordered by the C. G. 21st Army Corps (French.)

4. The 2nd Bn. 5th Marines (less 1 Co.) will constitute the Brigade Reserve in the woods northwest of Lucy-le-Bocage.
5. The position when attained will be at once organized to be held against counter-attack.

6. Trains will remain in place.
7. Brigade and Regimental P. C's remain in place."

There was no other information concerning the enemy or the terrain and as there was no time for scouting, the company commanders were shown the above order, also their objectives on the map, and were conducted to the line from which the battalion would start the attack. The 82nd Company and 84th Company were in the front line—the 82nd Company being on the left of the ravine that runs from Lucy-le-bocage to Bouresches and the 84th Company being on the right of this ravine. The 83rd Company was placed in support of the 82nd company and the 97th Company in support of the 84th Company, all companies were in four wave formation. Company commanders were informed that the Battalion Commander and P. C. would advance along the ravine.

The attack started at 5:00 p. m. and battalion advanced according to schedule until about 8:30 p. m., when enemy artillery and machine gun fire became so heavy that further advance was impracticable.

During this time the battalion had advanced about two kilometers and had reached the edge of the woods near Bouresches which was the first objective designated by the Regimental Commander for this Battalion. The 82nd Company having been held up by terrific machine gun fire from machine gun nests, the 83rd Company had gone in to support it and fought its way to a clump of trees about three hundred yards northwest of Bouresches. In this vicinity

one platoon of the 83rd Company captured seventeen prisoners, two machine guns and a quantity of ammunition. These guns were set up by them and used with good effect upon the enemy.

Our casualties had been heavy but we had been able to kill and wound many of the enemy. Two "minnenwerfers" and much ammunition had been abandoned by the enemy on the ground passed over by the 82nd and 83rd Companies.

The general situation in this attack is shown in sketch "A" attached. The two right companies advanced for the large part through open wheat fields and were under constant observation and direct artillery and machine gun fire. The two left companies were entirely in the Southern sector of Bois de Belleau. They did not meet serious resistance, however, until they came to the many machine gun nests that were located in the high rocky crags in the southeastern portion of the woods.

Under orders previously received the second phase of the attack, namely the capture of Bouresches, was not to begin until the Bois de Belleau had been freed from the enemy, and this fact reported to Regimental Headquarters. Consequently it was impracticable for the two right companies to advance beyond the line occupied by the two left Companies.

The 82nd and 83rd Companies, after having done gallant work in reducing several of the machine gun nests, were unable to press the advance with the men remaining, consequently at 8:30 all companies were ordered to dig in.

At 8:45 p. m. the following message was sent to Regimental Commander:

"From: 3rd Bn.
At: P. C.
Date: 6-6-18 Hq. 8:45 p. m.
To: Regimental Commander.

Unable to advance infantry further because of strong machine gun positions and artillery fire. Have given orders to hold present position at far edge of woods. Losses already heavy. Await instructions.

(Signed) Sibley."

The Battalion P. C. at this time was in the ravine about 150 yards from the east edge of the woods.

Word was received from Commanding Officer 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines at about 10:45 p. m. that a detachment of the 96th Company had entered Bouresches from the east and was in urgent need of reenforcements. Information had been received about thirty minutes before that Colonel Catlin had been wounded in the first hour of the engagement. Lieut. Col. Lee's P. C. had not been located by our runners and, in the absence of any communication with the Regimental Commander, Major Sibley ordered the 84th and 97th Companies to advance from their positions in the field into the town of Bouresches.

The 82nd and 83rd Companies held their positions and continued to dig in. The Battalion Headquarters remained in the ravine near the 82nd and 83rd Companies. The 84th and 97th Companies, not meeting with any resistance from the enemy arrived in Bouresches at about 11:40 p. m. and entered the town.

These companies were assigned positions by the senior officer present and proceeded to dig in.

During the night of 6-7 Major Fox arrived with two companies of the 2nd Engineers and was assigned to a position in rear of the 82nd company.

There was great difficulty with communications during this time. The telephone line was frequently shot out and runners encountered gas in the area between Lucy and the Battalion P. C. Water was available only by being carried in canteens along the difficult ravine that led to Lucy. Some rations were dumped there also but owing to scarcity of men only a few could be carried into the woods. The two companies in Bouresches were able to get some rations by Ford trucks during the night. Ammunition consisting of Chauchat, Springfield, pistol, flares and a very few grenades were brought up. The engineers also brought tools.

During the night of 6-7 the Bois de Belleau was under lively artillery fire most of the time. The gas from high explosive shells was very distressing. Early in the day of June 7 the Battalion Commander made a reconnaissance of the front line positions and made readjustments of certain of the units so as to afford better protection against the enemy who held strong positions in our woods just to the northeast of us. The 80th Company under Captain Coffenberg which had taken up a position in rear of the Battalion P. C., astride the Lucy-Bouresches road was ordered into a support position in the southwestern corner of Bois de Belleau. The morning of the 7th the Battalion

P. C. was moved 150 yards to the rear and the Battalion Adjutant was sent to Regimental and Brigade Headquarters to explain the general situation, and to tell of the exhausted condition of the men. No sleep had been possible the previous night and hot food had not been had for eight days. The enemy also held dangerous and harassing positions well on our left flank.

The day passed rather quietly except in the afternoon when a lively artillery bombardment of the woods occupied by us was made. The Battalion Quartermaster, Lieut. McFarland, and three of his men were severely wounded on the Bouresches-Lucy road while under orders to take rations to Bouresches.

Early in the afternoon the Battalion Commander received word that the Battalion would make an attack the next morning at 4:00 a. m. The Major was sent for by the Brigade Commander and there given definite instructions.

At 11:30 p. m. the enemy attacked our positions with a strong force and put down heavy artillery and machine gun fire on all our positions. Our losses were comparatively slight, mostly from artillery fire. The enemy, however, it was afterward learned from prisoners and from observation of dead bodies, suffered very heavy losses from our fire. The 83rd Company on the eastern edge of the wood did very effective work with automatic rifles and captured enemy machine guns upon large body of Germans who were attacking Bouresches from the North. These assaults broke down before they reached our lines.

Orders had been given to the Company Commanders the night of the 7th relative to their positions in the attack on the morning of the 8th of June. They were to be in position at 3:00 a. m. The 82nd Company was on the right with its right resting on the southeast corner of the woods. The 83rd Company was on the left of the 82nd Company. Both of these companies were in four waves. Two platoons of the 80th Company were in support with instructions to protect the left flank. A detail of the 2nd Engineers was detailed to protect the right flank and to advance in rear of the right of the 82nd Company along the eastern edge of the woods, the remaining engineers and two platoons of the 80th Company were held in reserve. The 83rd Company was withdrawn into the woods from its advanced position in time to get into line.

The attack was preceded by a short bombardment by Stokes Mortars. The Stokes Mortars belonged to the Stokes Mortar platoon of the Headquarters Company, 6th Regiment, and had been brought up and placed in position during the night. This bombardment did not prove to be very effective on account of the density of the forest and the consequent difficulty in observing the fire.

The attack began as scheduled. The machine gun nests were soon encountered and it was found that they were well fortified in the rocks and held an exceedingly strong position. The fire from these machine guns was terrific. They were also well supplied with hand grenades. This fire cost us heavy

casualties but we were able to capture four machine guns and to kill many of enemy who were garrisoned in this machine gun nest.

Much execution was done by automatic rifles. Bombs were scarce. The rifles played the most important role and some enemy were also killed by the bayonet.

Hard fighting continued until about 8:30 a. m. when the Battalion Commander found from personal observation and from reports made to him that the enemy had many machine guns placed in a series of strong points or forts in such manner that one flanked the other. Four of these strong points were located and two surrounded by our men.

The Battalion Commander being on the ground at the time became convinced that he could not carry these forts without artillery preparation even by expending all his forces. He decided to hold the ground gained by withdrawing his men sufficiently to gain cover and dig in. Accordingly the Commander of the 83rd Company was directed to hold his position while the rest of the forces were withdrawn and placed in the holes and trenches which had been constructed. The 83rd Company was then placed on the left of the 82nd Company and preparations made to hold this position at all costs. The Engineers and the 80th Company were again placed in support positions. These movements were completed at about 11:30 a. m. Reconnaissance was then made of all immediate surrounding country and a report made to

the Brigade Commander through a Brigade Staff officer who came to get an estimate of the situation.

During the afternoon of the 8th we were heavily shelled by enemy artillery which caused some casualties, the heaviest losses being borne by some of the platoons of the 80th Company. In the early morning of the 8th the 97th company was moved to woods about one kilometer southeast of Bouresches. One platoon of the 97th Company was sent to re-enforce the rest of this Battalion in the Bois de Belleau and they were placed in support near the 80th Company.

The afternoon of the 8th word was received from Brigade Headquarters that the enemy machine gun nests which had not been captured would be subjected to our own artillery fire and that our line on the left front should withdraw slightly in order to avoid endangering our own men. The following message was then sent:

"Hq. Third Btn. 8 June 1:55 p. m.
To: C. G. 4th Brigade.

Will have men under cover for artillery fire south edge of woods within 125 yards of edge by 3:00 p. m. Regret to report officers and men are too much exhausted for further attack or strong resistance until after several hours' rest. Enemy shelling our position now. Damage not serious at present.

(Signed) Sibley."

In accordance with instructions the 83rd Company and Engineers withdrew slightly in the direction of the ravine. Cossack posts, however, were left somewhat in advance. Ammunition was received during

the day. Cold rations were carried in from Lucy. The following message was sent regarding difficulty of rationing Battalion:

"Hq. 3rd Btn. 8 June; 2:10 p. m.
To: C. O. 6th Regt.

Enclosed message is reply to message received direct from Brigade Commander. Please consider matter of relief and hot food for Battalion. All much exhausted. Capt. Coffenberg, 80th Co., reports his Co. has had very little to eat during the last two days and has no rations at present.

(Signed) Sibley."

"Hq. 3rd Btn. 8 June; 2:10 p. m.
To: Lt. Col. Lee.

Through some error the 83rd Co. received no rations today. Also have had none today. Is it possible to get something to them today?

(Signed) Sibley."

At 8:30 p. m. orders were received from Regimental Headquarters that this Battalion would be relieved by the first Battalion of the Sixth Regiment. Later instructions, however, provided for no relieving Battalion to take our positions. These were to be vacated entirely in order that our artillery might have a free hand in reducing the enemy machine gun nests. This Battalion with the exception of the 84th Company assembled at daylight on the morning of the 9th in Bois de Platiere, approximately two kilometers south of Marigny. The Battalion was then in Corps Reserve. The 84th Company was not relieved from its position in the woods southwest of Bouresches until the night of June 9-10, when it joined the Battalion.

Here we received our first hot food since the 31st of May. All men were given a chance to clean up and some new clothes were issued. On June 9th Battalion received replacements of six officers and 128 men. At 7:00 p. m. June 11th the following order was received.

"From: C. G. 4th Brigade.
At: P. C. June 11; Hour: 6:00 p. m. No. 7
To C. O. 3rd Bn. 6th Marines.

Your Battalion is relieved as Corps Reserve and detailed as the Brigade reserve. It will proceed at dark tonight to the woods just northwest of Lucy-le-Bocage. 174.0-261.5.
(Copy to C. O. 6th) (Signed) Harbord."

The Battalion arrived at the Brigade reserve position at 1:00 a. m., June 12th. During the day of June 12th the woods were shelled; casualties five men wounded.

At dark on the night of June 12-13, the Battalion relieved the first Battalion of the 5th Marines, taking over its positions northeast of Hill 142 as shown on the attached sketch "B." One hundred and twenty-five replacements and two officers were received at this time. This sector was held until the night of 15-16 during which period Battalion was attached to Fifth Regiment. There was shelling at intervals but very few casualties. The positions were improved and wire was put up. On the night of the 15th-16th the First Battalion of the 174th French Infantry relieved this Battalion which then proceeded to the Bois de Platiere at point 170.0-259.5 where it re-

mained as Divisional reserve until the night of June 21-22.

While in this position a few new clothes and some equipment were issued and the Battalion was sent to the Marne at St. Aulde for bathing.

On the night of June 21 Battalion relieved the Third Battalion, 5th Regiment as Brigade reserve in woods about one kilometer northwest of Lucy-le-Bocage.

On night of June 22-23 Battalion relieved Second Battalion 7th Infantry in southeast corner of Bois de Belleau. The 97th Company less one platoon, 84th and 82nd were placed in the line from right to left. The 83rd and one platoon of 97th in support. The Battalion was shelled while making relief, casualties were five wounded and one killed.

The Battalion stayed in this position until June 29th. During stay here wire was put up across the entire front. The enemy shelled woods daily resulting in forty-five casualties. While in this position frequent night patrols were made and the Battalion Scouts did some sniping with good results. The rations were much better than on former stays in the trenches. The men were often able to get hot beans in addition to the usual cold ration. The Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. gave all companies an issue of chocolate, tobacco and cakes almost daily. This issue served to raise the morale of the men.

At 7:00 p. m. night of June 25th, the Third Battalion, Fifth Regiment, which was on our left, made an attack. Lieut. Garrett with two platoons of the

83rd Company were sent as support for this attack. These platoons supported the attack on the right and were returned to this Battalion early on the morning of June 27th. During the day, June 26th, this Battalion sent approximately twenty-five men to the Third Battalion of the Fifth Regiment to be used in taking prisoners to the rear. These men were returned by daylight on the morning of June 27th.

On the night of June 29th, the Battalion was relieved by First Battalion, 6th Regiment. The Battalion proceeded to Bois-de-Gros Jean on the east side of the Paris-Metz Road, two kilometers north of Montreuil. Battalion remained in this position until July 5th.

On July 2, 1918, eighty men and four officers left Battalion for Paris to take part in Fourth of July parade of American Soldiers. While in Bois-de-Gros Jean the Battalion was issued some new clothing and equipment. All of the men were given a bath in the Marne.

On the night of July 5-6 Battalion was relieved by Third Battalion, 103rd Infantry. Upon being relieved this Battalion proceeded to a point in woods eight hundred yards north-northwest of town of Bezu-le-Guery. The Battalion was then told to occupy a portion of the Army line assigned to this Division, to the right and left of Bezu-le-Guery. On July 6th Battalion P. C. was moved into town of Bezu-le-Guery. The 84th Company on the left and the 97th Company on the right were placed in position along the army line to the North of town. These

companies covered two kilometers of the line. The 82nd and 83rd Companies were held in reserve about one kilometer in rear of the line. Battalion remained in this position until the 8th of July, during which time work was done improving the trench system. On July 6th, the Paris detail returned. This Battalion was relieved by the First Battalion, 6th Regiment on afternoon of July 8th and proceeded to Nanteuil-sur-Marne where we were held in reserve for Army line. While at Nanteuil drill was conducted in small groups and swimming instruction was given daily. On the afternoon of July 13th the Battalion moved to Bezu and relieved 2nd Battalion, 6th Regiment on the Army line to the north of Bezu. The 82nd and 83rd Companies were put into line and the 84th and 97th Companies were held in reserve one kilometer in rear of the line. While here work was done improving the trench system.

The total casualties for this Battalion while in the Chateau Thierry Sector were one officer and eighty-one men killed; thirteen officers and two hundred eighty-two men wounded, two officers dying of wounds after reaching hospital; and twenty-five men missing. When the Battalion went out into the woods as Corps Reserve a careful check was made and the casualties during recent fighting were 42 per cent officers and 40 per cent enlisted men.*

*This casualty is taken from message written on the field at the time and has not been revised. It is, however, approximately correct.

## OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS SOISSONS SECTOR

In accordance with instructions from Regimental Headquarters at 6:00 p. m., July 16th, this Battalion moved to Nanteuil where they entrained in camions at 11:00 p. m. and rode all night and until noon July 17th when Battalion was put down from camions by order of the French officers in charge at the cross-roads at point 135, one kilometer southwest of Brassoir. (Soissons Map) The Battalion rested in the field while its commander rode ahead in an effort to secure orders and gain information about the situation. Not finding other headquarters he was able from Corps Headquarters to get orders to bring the Battalion into the Foret-de-Retz from the west via the Brassoir railway station. The march was begun at 3:00 p. m. At 4:00 p. m. as the Battalion was about to enter the forest, Lieut. Marshall, Battalion Scout Officer, joined it, having gone ahead for information and succeeded in locating Division Headquarters. He reported that regiment was to participate in an attack the following morning.

The march was continued into the forest and at about 6:00 p. m. temporary Regimental Headquarters was located and passed. Orders were received then from the Regimental Commander to push on to the vicinity of Cross Christine (Point 168.2-268.3 Villers-Cotterets map) and bivouac there. This position was reached in a violent thunderstorm at 11:20 p. m. The march had been rendered difficult by the extremely congested condition of the roads owing to the for-

ward movement of all manner of military transportation. The Regiment was then in Divisional reserve for the general allied attack which was to begin the next morning at daylight. The Battalion bivouacked at that point and took what rest it could until violent allied artillery action at daybreak in surrounding forest gave notice that the attack had begun. Orders were received at 9:15 a. m. from Regimental Headquarters to be on the alert and be prepard to move forward. The order came at 11:45 a. m. to move to Verte Feuilleferme, 3.9 kilometers to the southeast. There the Battalion rested until orders were received about 6:00 p. m. to move to the vicinity of the Beaure Paire Ferme about 3 kilometers to the southeast. This Battalion bivouacked for the night of July 18-19 in the woods near the point 129, one kilometer south of Beaure Paire farm. Up to this time Battalion had been subjected to little hostile fire and there had been no losses. During the day advance had been made four kilometers over what had been previously occupied by the Germans and this was still two kilometers behind the new battle line. Many hundreds of prisoners had been seen passing to the rear and the tremendous amount of traffic on the roads of all descriptions indicated the large support that might be expected in our attack. Officers and men were in high spirits and eager to take their part in the work of the advance.

Major Sibley was called to Regimental Headquarters in the field south of Beaure Paire farm about

4:25 a. m. the next morning, July 19. There it was explained to him that this Regiment would attack the German line east of Vierzy that morning. He was given a map and ordered to report with the Battalion to the Regimental Commander at Vierzy. The First Battalion was to attack on the right of the Regimental sector, the Second Battalion on the left with the Third Battalion in reserve. It was understood that the hour set for the attack was 8:00 a. m. with previous artillery preparation. Battalion was put in march as soon as possible, congested roads and the fact that it had to halt to permit the two Battalions going into the front line to pass, prevented its arrival in the town of Vierzy until about 8:15 a. m. The First and Second Battalions were at that time forming for the attack. Verbal instructions were received from Regimental Commander at his Headquarters, which were then established under a cliff in the southeastern edge of the town of Vierzy, that this Battalion should follow the advance of the other two Battalions at a distance of about one thousand yards and to be in a position to support the other battalions. Company Commanders were called together, the situation explained and the objective of the Regiment pointed out to them on the one available map. They were also informed that the Battalion P. C. would advance to the eastward along a designated trail.

There being no cover available, the companies immediately began taking their positions in the open wheatfield under aerial observation and subjected

to shell fire. Each company was in four lines (lines of combat groups), the 97th Company on the right, the 84th right center, the 83rd left center and the 82nd on the left.

The P. C. of the Battalion was established at about 9:00 a. m. in the eastern end of the ravine, half a kilometer due east of point 112 and all companies notified of this. At that time and place the following organizations reported to Major Sibley for duty and support. One platoon each from the 73rd and 81st machine gun companies and also the 15th and 77th machine gun companies complete. The Regimental Headquarters Company reported, less certain signal groups and other details. The Stokes mortar and one pounder platoons were without their Stokes mortars and 37mm. guns as these had been left with the Regimental train which had not arrived from Nanteuil. The detachments from the 73rd, 81st and Headquarters companies were placed in the ravine in rear of the Battalion P. C. Machine gun companies were directed to take cover in Vierzy and hold themselves in readiness.

By 9:15 a. m. all companies of the Third Battalion had reported in position.

At about 9:45 a. m. the following message was received:

"From: C. O. 6th Regt.
At: P. C.
Date: 19 July 1918—8:55 a. m. No. 5 by runner.
To: C. O. 3rd Bn.

Upon arrival of the attack on the line now held

by our troops about one and one-half (1½) kilometers east of Vierzy, you will be succeeded by the 1st Bn. 2nd Engrs. as reserve. You will then reinforce the line in the center between the 1st and 2nd Bns. two Cos in the line in waves and two in local support. (Signed) Lee."

Upon receipt of this message the 84th Company was sent to re-enforce the left of the First Battalion and the 83rd Company to re-enforce the right of the Second Battalion, it being understood that there was an uncovered gap between the two battalions. The 97th and 82nd Companies remained in support. The following message was then sent to Colonel Lee:

"From: Hq. 3rd Btn. 6th.
At: P. C.
Date: 19 July 18—9:50 a. m.
To: C. O. 6th.

Attacking line is moving forward. No details received. Have sent 84th company to reinforce left of first battalion and 83rd company to reinforce right of 2nd Btn. 97th is in position on right of 84th with orders to hold that position as support. 82nd company is in a position on left of 83rd company with orders to hold that position as a support. My P. C. is now at the east end of ravine just east of cemetery. Expect to advance along road to the eastward. Headquarters company and two M. G. platoons are in same ravine with me. 15th and 77th M. G. Companies are in vicinity of cemetery.
(Signed) Sibley"

At 10:10 a. m. these messages were sent:

"From: Hq. 3rd Btn.
At: P. C.
Date: 19 July 1918—10:10 a. m.
To: Noble (83rd Co.)

Keep in touch with Karstaedt on your right so as to fill any gap that may occur between the 1st and 2nd Btns. Move into line with those Btns. at once.

(Signed) Sibley"

"From: Hq. 3rd Btn.
At: P. C.
Date: 19 July 1918—10:10 a. m.
To: Karstaedt (84th Co.)

Keep in close touch with Noble on your left so as to fill any gap between the 1st and 2nd Btns. Move up into line with those Btns. at once.

(Signed) Sibley"

Necessary movement of runners and scouts in the vicinity of our P. C. and observation from low flying enemy planes soon brought down a very heavy fire from the enemy artillery upon the ravine in which P. C. was located. Several of these high explosive shells landed directly in the ravine and caused rather heavy casualties among the Battalion Scouts, Headquarters Company and some of the machine gun units. Some machine guns were put out of commission.

By 10:30 a. m. the 84th and 83rd companies, sent forward to re-enforce the first and 2nd Battalions had joined the first line and were participating in the attack. Reports from the Scout Officer who had been sent forward about 9:10 a. m. and had established an observation post at the point where the Battalion P. C. was later established, indicated that the ad-

vanced line was at that time (10:30 a. m.) two kilometers east of Vierzy. The Scout Officer's report also stated that the troops were being subjected to very heavy direct enemy artillery fire and to the cross-fire from numerous German machine guns advantageously placed in the woods to the front and flanks. During this time nothing was heard from our own artillery.

At about 10:40 a. m. reports came from both the 84th and the 83rd companies that they had suffered very heavy casualties, at that time estimated to be over sixty per cent, and that further advance was almost impossible without re-enforcements. Liaison between adjoining companies was maintained but was rendered extremely difficult because of the open country and the activity of snipers, machine guns and direct artillery fire. At about 10:45 a. m. the Battalion P. C. began moving to cross-roads about 200 yards south of the point 8160. At 10:55 a. m. the following message was sent:

"From: Hq. 3rd Btn.
At: P. C.
Date: 19 July 1918—10:55 a. m. by runner.
To: C. O. 6th.

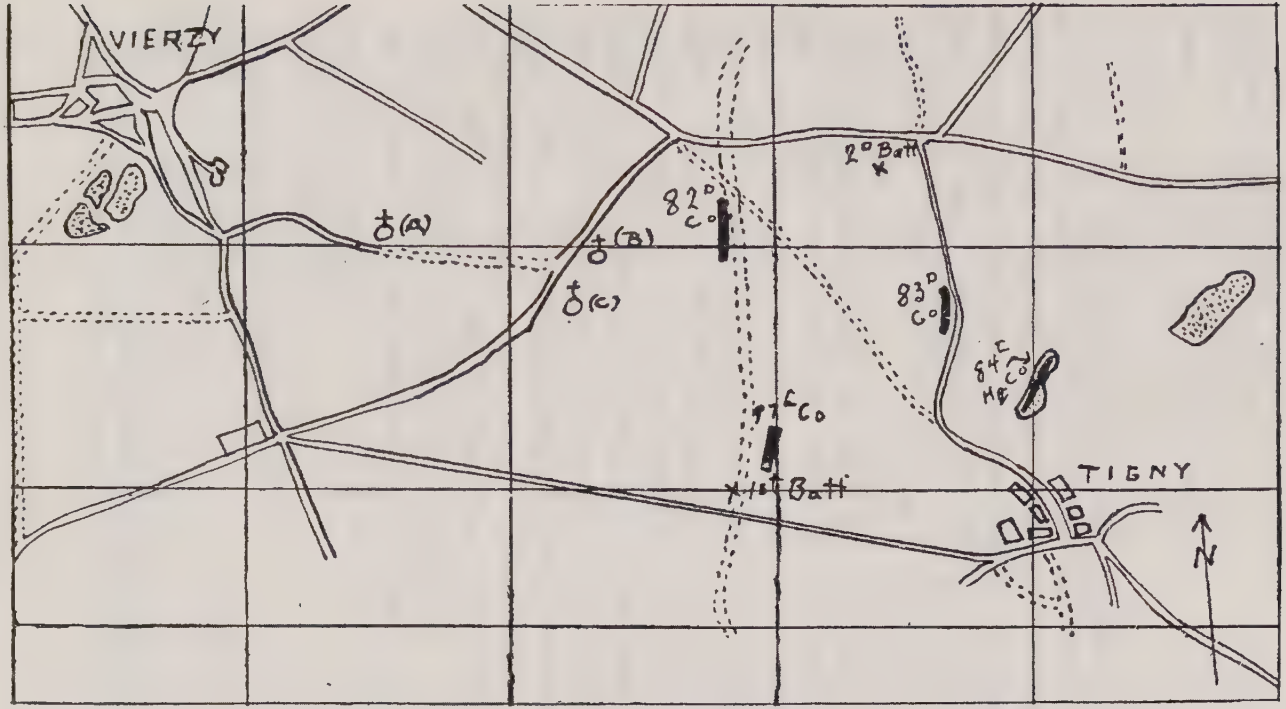
Your message saying your P. C. moving just received. My P. C. at that point at present. Am looking for another one. Shelling in this vicinity now.
(Signed) Sibley."

Shortly after 11:00 a. m. a runner from the 83rd Company Commander reported that the 83rd company was held up by a machine gun fire on the left.

The general situation on that flank appeared to be serious and the 82nd company, held in support, was ordered to re-inforce the front line, advancing eastward along the line taken by the 83rd company, (left center), and to connect up the line between that company and the 2nd battalion.

On the right the 84th Company, after suffering heavy casualties, dashed across the remaining open space and occupied a strong point in the woods half a kilometer north of Tigny. The company commander having been evacuated, what was left of the company was now led by Lt. Mason. Twenty-six men, including 1 officer, 4 machine guns, 1 trench mortar and a projector were captured. The position taken was an unusually strong one and as shown by information subsequently received was considered by the enemy an important strong point. Just prior to this the reports received from the 84th company and from the 1st Battalion indicating heavy casualties, caused Major Sibley to order the 97th company from a support position into the line with orders to re-inforce the left of the first battalion and connect up with the 84th company.

At that time the town of Tigny was still held by the Germans and, according to report received from Major Hughes of the first battalion, nothing less than a regiment would be able to drive them out. The following message was sent to Col. Lee, the Regimental Commander:




Map 2—Vierzy, Tigny; (Soissons Sector) (A)—Batt. Hdq. until 10:45 a. m. 19 July, 1918. (B)—Batt. Hdq. until 4 p. m. same date. (C)—Batt. Hdq. until relieved.

"From: Hq. 3rd Btn. 6th.
At: P. C.
Date: 19 July 1918, by runner.
To: C. O. 6th.

Scout officer has just returned from Major Hughes. Says that Hughes is in a cut in road whose co-ordinates are 285-178.9 and that he has but about 100 men left. 97th as well as 84th have reinforced him and they are nearly all casualties. Germans still hold Tigny. Major Hughes stated need reinforcements badly, nothing less than a regiment sufficient. (Signed) Sibley."

During the progress of the fight the platoon of the 81st company and the 77th machine gun company had been detached from this command by regimental orders and assigned to duty elsewhere. The separate platoon from the 73rd company and the 15th machine gun company and also the headquarters company, however, still remained as reserve for this battalion. Shortly before midday an urgent request was received from the 84th company for re-inforcements. The Headquarters company and the platoon from the 73rd machine gun company were then ordered to reenforce Lt. Mason in the strong point held by him and the remaining officers and men of the 84th company. The following message was then sent to Regimental Commander:

"From: Hq. Third Btn. 6th.
At: P. C.
Date: 19 July 1918—12:05 p. m. by runner.
To: C. O. 6th.

In reply to your verbal message, 97th company is now with Major Hughes, approximately 179-285, has

about 50 men left. 84th company is between 97th and 83rd. Has about 40 men. 83rd Co. is about 179-286, estimated about 50 per cent casualties. 82nd Co. has been sent to reinforce 83rd Co. on its left; casualties unknown, said to be heavy. Headquarters Co. is now advancing to support 84th Co. on its right. Their casualties unknown. Vicinity of this P. C. now being shelled.

(Signed) Sibley."

(Note)—Information had not reached the Battalion Commander at this time that the 77th company and the platoon of the 81st company had been disposed of by the Regimental Commander.

The 15th machine gun company was ordered to re-inforce the reserve line occupied by the 2nd engineers.

At about 12:40 p. m. the following message was received from the Regimental Commander:

"From: C. O. 6th.
At: P. C.
Date: 19 July 1918—12:15 p. m. No. 9 by runner.
To: C. O. 3rd Btn.

Has the town of Tingy been taken by our troops? If you don't know find out. If you are stopped, dig in. There are French troops on our right. Ammunition for M. G. and Chauchat has been asked for.

(Signed) Lee."

At 12:45 p. m. the following message sent to all companies:

"From: Hq. 3rd Btn. 6th.
At: P. C.
Date: 19 July 1918—12:45 p. m.
To: All Companies.

Hold the line you now have—dig in—get in touch with Cos on your right and left. Reinforcements coming. (Signed) Sibley."

At 12:50 p. m. the following message was sent to Regimental Commander:

"From: C. O. 3rd Btn. 6th.
At: P. C.
Date: 19 July 1918—12:50 p. m. by runner.
To: C. O. 6th.

Tigny had not been taken by our troops at 12:00 noon. Believe it has not been taken since. Am sending to verify this. Have just received information that enemy is massing troops to front and left of our 84th Company. Have no further troops to send to their assistance or to stop enemy counter attack. Reported ammunition getting short. Can some be sent from rear? I have no troops to send back for ammunition. Have ordered companies to dig in.

(Signed) Sibley."

"From: Hq. 3rd Btn. 6th.
At: P. C.
Date: 19 July 1918—1:20 p. m. by runner.
To: C. O. 6th.

1:15 p. m. Scout has just returned and says that Tingy has not been taken. Major Hughes sent word that he is trying to hold what he now has and that he was expecting reinforcements from this Battalion. I have no more troops to send him.

(Signed) Sibley."

At about 2:30 p. m. it became necessary to have the exact location of the companies and Lieutenant Marshall, the Scout officer, was sent to get this information.

At about 4:00 p. m. the Battalion P. C. was moved about 200 yards to the southward and located in a cut in the road to give a little better cover.

At about 4:30 p. m. the following message was received:

"From: C. O. 6th Regt.
At: P. C.
Date: 19 July 1918—3:45 p. m. No. 10 by runner.
To: C. O. 1st, 2nd, 3rd Btns., Hqrs. Co., 1st En., 2nd Engrs.

The Division Commander directs us to dig in and hold our present line at all costs. No further advance will be made for the present. He congratulates the command on its gallant conduct in the face of severe casualties.

Let me have a sketch of your position and disposition. Ammunition at crossroads 122 southeast of Vierzy. (Signed) Lee."

This message was sent in reply:

"From: Hq. 3rd Btn. 6th Marines.
At: P. C.
Date: 19 July 1918—5:00 p. m. No. 6 by runner.
To: C. O. 6th Regt.

Your No. 10 just received—trying to consolidate positions and get companies into some kind of a line where they can dig in and hold. Accompanying sketch shows best information we have regarding disposition. Believe positions of companies somewhat inaccurate. Am checking this up and will forward another sketch later.

(Signed) Sibley, per Bellamy."

After Lieutenant Marshall's return from the front line with definite information as to the positions of the companies, the following report was sent to the Regimental Commander:

"From: C. O. 3rd Btn.
At: P. C.
Date: 19 July 1918—8:05 p. m. No. 7 by runner.
To: C. O. 6th Regt.

Lieut. Marshall has just returned from a most perilous trip which he voluntarily made to our entire front line. Am enclosing sketch of positions held at present. Situation worse than I had wished to believe. According to best information received present strength is as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 97th Co..... | 4 | Officers..... | 50 men |
| 84th Co..... | 3 | Officers..... | 50 men |
| 83rd Co..... | 4 | Officers..... | 100 men |
| 82nd Co..... | 4 | Officers..... | 140 men |
| Hqrs. Co. (?).. | 1 | Officer..... | 45 men |
| | 16 | | 385 |

Also Battalion Hqrs. 4 officers 30 men. Strength of Bn. (estimated) this morning was 36 officers, 850 men. So far as known those unaccounted for are casualties. Quite likely some can be located later. It is reported that the fields between our P. C. and the front contain many killed and wounded. No facilities here for sending out wounded unable to walk.

Under present conditions it will be very difficult to reorganize companies even under cover of darkness. Will continue holding line until we can be reenforced or relieved. Companies have done all digging possible under circumstances. Will continue to dig in all that conditions permit.

On account of greatly weakened fighting force impracticable to send out carrying parties to bring enough necessary water and provisions. In front line canteens are practically all empty and very few remaining rations. Can water and rations be sent to us or a relief sent? We have no flares, pyrotechnics or flare pistols, have no hand grenades. Considerable amount of rifle ammunition remaining. Also some Chauchat. Many of their chauchats out of action because of loss of men.

(Signed) Sibley."

During these operations and during the entire day communications were accomplished with extreme difficulty. The Battalion P. C. was under continuous hostile artillery fire, also aeroplane observation and occasional fire from their machine guns. There was great need for water all along the line and wounded were sent to the rear only with great difficulty. Because of the lack of stretchers only walking cases could be moved. It had not been possible to serve a meal before the march was begun that morning and a small amount of reserve rations were all that the men had to eat.

Notwithstanding the great difficulty, reduced fighting strength of the companies and the exhaustion of the men and their lack of food and water for eighteen hours, preparations were made for the consolidation of the positions gained during the battle. Plans were made with the assistance and co-operation of the first Battalion, 2nd Engineers under Major Fox, to dig trenches and put up wire as soon as dusk obscured enemy observation it was possible

to move the wounded from the front line to the rear. Motor trucks from the supply train assisted in this work.

At 8:30 p. m. the following message was received:

"From: C. O. 6th Regiment.
At: P. C.
Date: 19 July 1918—7:30 p. m. by runner.
To: C. O. 3rd Bn., 1st Bn., 2nd Bn.

You will have guides for three companies of your battalion at the crossroads southwest of Vierzy about south of letter "R" in Vierzy, co-ordinate 176.2-285.7 at nine thirty (9:30) p. m. tonight, your entire battalion will be relieved and also Hqrs. Co., but guides for three companies are required as a French Battalion only consists of three (3) companies. Bring in all wounded when relieved.

By direction, (Signed) W. H. Sitz,
Capt. U. S. M. C.

In accordance with the above order guides from this battalion arrived at the designated rendezvous at the hour specified, and at midnight were in turn met by the first Battalion of the 11th Tirrailleurs (French). Relief by this Battalion began about 1 a. m. and was completed at 4:30 a. m.

The companies when relieved assembled in the woods south of Beaure Paire farm where rations had been provided by the Battalion Quartermaster and they were given breakfast. In accordance with orders received from the Regimental Commander the Battalion was marched at 8:15 a. m. to the edge of the Foret de Retz near Translor Farm and bivouacked there with the rest of the Regiment. At this time a

check was made and losses during the previous day's fighting were estimated as follows:

| | Company Strength July 18th. | | Killed..... | | Wounded... | | Missing.... | | Total Casualties | | Present Strength. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | O. | M. | O. | M. | O. | M. | O. | M. | O. | M. | O. | M. |
| Btn. Hdqrs. | 5 | 6 | | | | | | | | | 6 | 6 |
| 82nd Co.... | 6 | 217 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 55 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 69 | 5 | 148 |
| 83rd Co.... | 6 | 212 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 51 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 58 | 3 | 154 |
| 84th Co.... | 7 | 201 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 72 | 0 | 23 | 4 | 101 | 3 | 100 |
| 97th Co.... | 7 | 213 | 0 | 12 | 4 | 105 | 0 | 15 | 4 | 132 | 3 | 81 |
| Total... | 31 | 849 | 0 | 27 | 12 | 283 | 0 | 50 | 12 | 360 | 19 | 489 |

The casualties amounted to 39 per cent of the officers and 42 per cent of the men present with the Battalion on the morning of July 19th.*

The advance which this Battalion made in the battle was over an open stretch of two and one-half or three kilometers. Half of this distance, however, was behind the lines already occupied by our troops but nevertheless exposed to continuous enemy artillery fire. The advance of the companies was in all cases cool and fearless in the face of tremendous hostile fire. They were stopped only when loss in numbers made further advance impossible.

While in bivouac near Translor Farm July 20th, the Battalion suffered three casualties from falling tree trunks and during the night of July 20-21 was subjected to intermittent long range shell fire. Seventeen casualties, including one death, resulted from this.

*This is original estimate, made July 20th, and has not been corrected to comply with latest revised reports.

At noon July 21 Battalion moved about three kilometers westward to a point near St. Christine, where a halt was made until 7:25 p. m., when, in accordance with orders from Regimental Headquarters, the Battalion moved ten kilometers due west to a point near Taille-Fontaine. On July 23 some clothes were issued.

### TRAINING

This battalion joined Regimental column at 3:00 a. m., July 24. Regiment marched westward approximately fifteen kilometers and bivouacked for night in woods one kilometer southwest of town of Levignen. At 8:00 a. m. next day Regiment marched to the town of Nanteuil-le-Haudouin and battalion was billeted there. A training program was put into effect here. Remained in this town until 7:00 a. m. July 31 when battalion entrained and proceeded to Nancy, arriving there August 1, 1918 at 10:30 a. m.

The wagon train and troops were unloaded one kilometer outside of the city limits and marched 15 kilometers to Chaligny-le-Mont where our advance billeting party met the incoming battalion at about 6 p. m.

The batallion stayed in this town from August 1st to August 7th, during which time daily drills by companies were carried out, as well as swimming instructions for the entire battalion. While in this place about 5 per cent of the battalion were allowed a short liberty in Nancy, the first liberty in several months.

Field Order No. 21, Second Division, August 5, 1918, received August 6, 1918, directed a change of station, the Division taking over the sector of Marbache. This battalion was to move on August 7 to Sexey-le-Bois and Aingeray, but the following order received on morning of August 7, 1918, changed our destination to Liverdun.

"Headquarters Second Division (Regular)
American Expeditionary Forces.
France, 5 August 1918.

From: Chief of Staff.
To: Commanding General, 4th Brigade.
Subject: Station of troops.

1. The Division Commander directs me to transmit to you the following instructions:

Under orders from Headquarters, 32nd Army Corps, (French) the battalion of 6th Marines, ordered to proceed to Sexey-le-Bois—Aingeray, on August 7, for station will instead proceed to Liverdun for station. The battalion will march via Sexey-le-Bois in time to arrive at Liverdun NOT EARLIER than 1 p. m., August 7, 1918.

PRESTON BROWN,
Colonel, General Staff, Chief of Staff."

In accordance with this order at 2 p. m. on August 7th the Battalion left Chaligny-leMont and proceeded to the town of Liverdun, a distance of approximately 22 kilometers, arriving there at about 7:30 p. m.

This battalion was in reserve in "barrage position" at Liverdun, together with 2nd Battalion of 23rd Infantry. The following message was sent after our arrival in Liverdun.

Headquarters, Third Battalion, Sixth Regiment,
Marine Corps, A. E. F.
France, 7 August, 1918.

MEMORANDUM. For Regimental Commander.

1. In accordance with Division Field Order No. 21, August 5 as modified by Division letter of 6 August, 1918, this battalion left Chaligny at 2:00 p. m., proceeded to Liverdun and took station there at 7:30 p. m., this date. 15th Machine Gun Company arrived from Haudiomont and took station with this Battalion.

B. W. Sibley,
Major, U. S. M. C., Commanding Btn."

The following communication was received on August 7 relative to the barrage position:

"Headquarters, Second Division (Regular.)
American Expeditionary Forces.
France, 6 August, 1918.

From: Chief of Staff.
To: C. G., 4th Brigade.
Subject: Barrage Position.

1. The Battalion of the 23rd Infantry, stationed at Liverdun and the Battalion of the 6th Marines, stationed at Sexey-le-Bois, on completion of the movement of the division to the Marbache sector will occupy the barrage position. The senior battalion commander of the two battalions will command the troops occupying this barrage position.

2. Please direct Major Sibley, 6th Marines, Commanding Officer of the battalion at Sexey-le-Bois, to call on and confer with Colonel Jacques, 145th Territorial Infantry (French) at Sexey-le-Bois, with the least practicable delay and obtain full information and instructions about the position.

By Command of Major General LeJeune:
PRESTON BROWN,
Colonel, General Staff, Chief of Staff.

Hq. 4th Brigade, Marine Corps, Am. E. F.
6 August, 1918

To: Major Sibley, 6th Marines.

1. Forwarded for your information.

By command of Brigadier General Neville:
(Signed) Carl R. Dietrich, 2nd Lt.
For and in the absence of
H. Lay, Major, Adjutant."

The battalion remained in this town until the 14th of August. During this time there were billeted in the same town the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry; a detachment of the 24th Regt. of Engrs.; the 15th Machine Gun Company, which was assigned to this battalion, and numerous French troops, which made the procuring of drinking water difficult. A regular routine, consisting of drills, swimming instructions, etc., was arranged and carried out during the stay in this place. Plans were also made with the French Engineers for working on the trench system of the barrage position. Here also, liberty parties consisting of 25 per cent of each company were allowed 24 hours in the city of Nancy. Several nights German bombing planes passed over this place and dropped bombs, none of which landed in the city and no casualties resulted.

On August 8th Major Sibley received notification of his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. On August 9th notification was received that seven days' leave for 5 per cent of the officers and men would be granted. Two officers left on August 11th, but leaves for men were not received from Regimental Headquarters until August 25.

At 9:16 a. m. August 14 the following telephone message was received while the battalion was in the field:

"Telephone message Syke-6. at 2nd Division Hq. 9:16 a. m. August 14, 1918.

This message just received: Copy to Col. Sibley and Maj. Fechet.

"The two battalions at Liverdun must be ready to march at 1:00 p. m. today. Going to an area where will be cut off from the railhead for a couple of days. Better take 4 or 5 days' rations if you can get them. Inspect your billets as other troops will be in and an inspector will be over from Div. Headqrs. also. Leave no salvage here."

Received by Sgt. Major Akers,
3rd Btn., 6th Marines.

At 12:30 p. m. the same date the following was received:

"ORDERS received from Division Headquarters by telephone, 12:30 p. m., Aug. 14, 1918.

To: C. O. 3rd Btn., 6th Marines.

You will give the necessary orders for the movement at 1:00 p. m., August 14th of the 3rd Btn., 6th Marines and the 2nd Btn., 23rd Infantry to Chaligny where you will receive further orders. Four to five days' rations should be carried. The billeting capacity of Chaligny is 57 officers and 2,300 men. (Recd. by Lt. Pierce.)"

In accordance with the above the battalion left Liverdun shortly after 1:00 p. m., arrived at Chaligny about 7:30 p. m. and was billeted for the night. At 12:30 a. m., August 15, the following was received:

"Headquarters, Second Division,
American Expeditionary Forces.
France, August 14, 1918, 10:30 p. m.

MEMORANDUM FOR C. O., Third Battalion, Sixth Marines, and C. O., Second Battalion, Twenty-third Infantry:

Moves for August fifteenth (15th):

Third Battalion, Sixth Marines, to Autreville.

Second Battalion, Twenty-third Infantry, to Germiny.

Rations will be delivered to above places on the afternoon of August fifteenth (15).

By command of Major General LeJeune:
J. C. RHEA,
Colonel, General Staff, A. C. of S., G-3."

In accordance with the above the Battalion marched at 9:00 a. m., a billeting party having left at 8 a. m. The march was made at a steady pace and halts were made for dinner and supper. The Battalion arrived at Autreville at about 9:15 p. m. with no absentees after a total of about 50 kilometers of marching in a day and one-half.

This move was made in accordance with Field Orders No. 22, 2nd Division, August 14, 11:00 a. m., which orders, however, were not received by us until the night of 15 August, 1918.

The Battalion remained at Autreville until August 21 and followed a regular routine of drills, etc. About 8:30 p. m., August 20, verbal orders were received to move out at 7:00 a. m. the following morning for Camp Bois-de-l'Eveque, 28 kilometers away. The start was made as per instructions at 7:00 a. m. and the camp was reached at about 6:30 p. m. Dur-

ing the stay at this camp a specified routine was followed out consisting of practice maneuvers, gas instruction, bombing practice and rifle range practice.

On Sunday, August 25th, the Battalion participated in the ceremonies attending the presentation of awards for gallantry in action in accordance with the following orders:

"Headquarters, Sixth Regiment,
Marine Corps, Am. E. F.,
24 August, 1918.

MEMORANDUM to Lieut. Colonel Sibley:

Colonel Lee directs that your battalion be the battalion representing this regiment in the ceremonies at Bois-de-l'Eveque tomorrow at ten o'clock a. m., full details of which are given in the attached memorandum from division headquarters. The uniform for these ceremonies will be blouses, helmets and field equipment less the pack.

W. H. Sitz,
Captain, U. S. M. C., Adjutant.

P. S.—The Colors will be sent to you by truck leaving here at 7:00 a. m. tomorrow morning.

W. H. Sitz."

At 9:30 a. m. August 25, the following instructions from Regimental Headquarters were received through Colonel Holcomb:

"Headquarters, Sixth Regiment,
Marine Corps, Am. E. F.,
24 August, 1918.

MEMORANDUM to Lieut. Col. Holcomb:

The 1st battalion will leave Harmonville at five o'clock p. m. tomorrow afternoon for Camp Bois de

l'Eveque. Colonel Lee wishes you to notify the 3rd battalion, now located at Bois de l'Eveque, that they will commence their march for Harmonville also at 5:00 p. m. tomorrow. It will not be necessary for Colonel Sibley to send any billeting party to this as arrangements will be made with the Headquarters Company stationed here to learn where the billets are that are now occupied by the 1st battalion and to meet the 3rd battalion upon their arrival here to direct them to these billets.

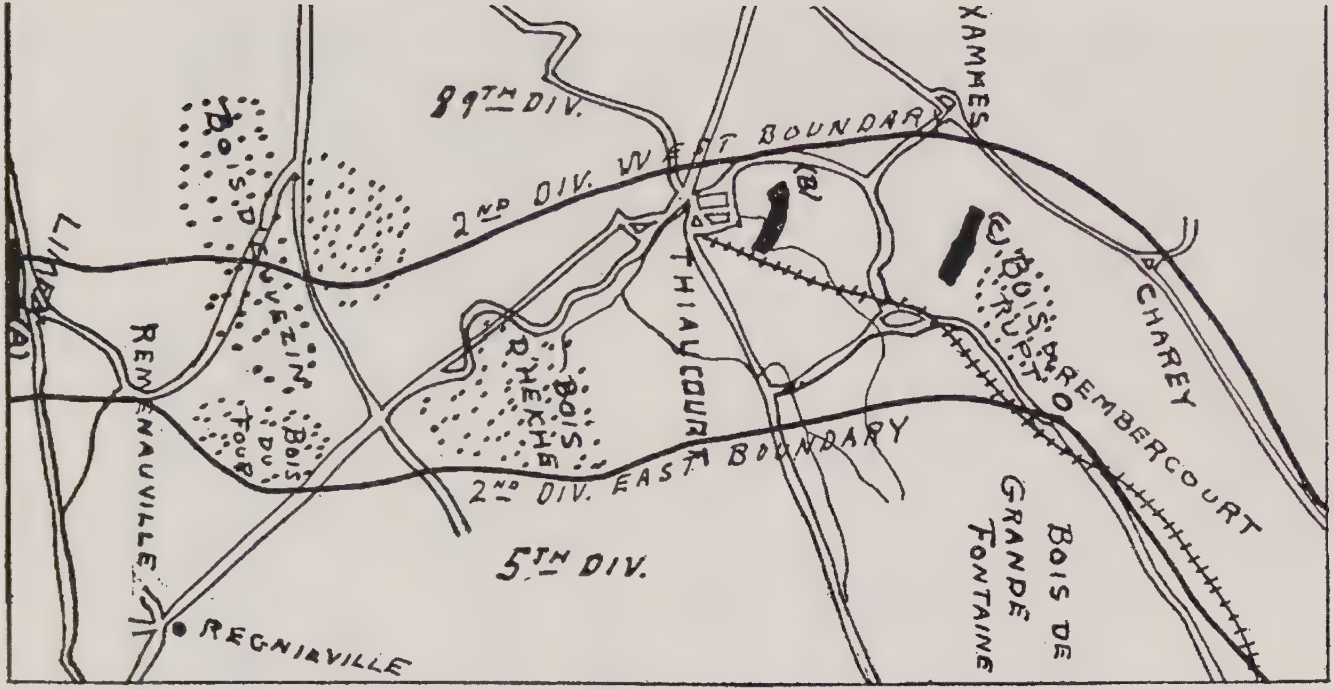
W. H. SITZ,
Captain, U. S. M. C., Adjutant."

In accordance with this, the Battalion left Camp Bois-de-l'Eveque at 5:00 p. m. for Harmonville, a distance of 28 kilometers and arrived at the town at approximately 2:00 a. m., August 26th, where they proceeded to billets previously occupied by the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines.

Here again a regular routine of drills and formations was taken up and followed daily.

### OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS ST. MIHIEL SALIENT.

Verbal orders were received during the day September 1st, to stand-by to leave in camions that night. Preparations for leaving were made at once and the Battalion stood by all night awaiting orders to leave. Early September 2nd word was received that the movement was to be by marching and at 9:00 p. m., September 2nd, the Battalion moved out in accordance with the following order:




Map 3—Limey, Thiaucourt, Xammes; (St. Mihiel Salient) (A)—Jump-off, 6:15 a. m. 12 Sept. 1918 (B)—Position 4 p. m. 12 Sept. 1918 (C)—Position 11 p. m. 14 Sept. 1918 until relieved.

"Headquarters, Sixth Regiment,
Marine Corps, Am. E. F.,
France, 2 September, 1918.

SECRET

FIELD ORDER No. 11.

Map: Nancy-Commercy 1:80,000. Hour, 3:15 p. m.

1. The 2nd Division is to move to another area by marching. This regiment will march in accordance with march table, Annex 1, of Field Orders No. 24, 2nd Division, dated September 2, 1918.

2. The Regimental M. G. Company and 3 Stokes Mortars, 37 mm. and pioneer platoons of the Headquarters Company, under command of senior officer present, will leave Camp Bois l'Eveque at 8:45 p. m. September 3rd and will join the regiment at Pierre la Triche at 10:45 p. m.

3. Organization commanders will make every effort to conceal this movement and troops on the march, in bivouac, or in billets will be disposed accordingly.

4. While the movement is in progress, organizations will endeavor to keep in touch with the Regimental Headquarters as much as possible.

5. Regimental Headquarters will close here at 9:20 p. m., September 2nd, and will be at the head of the 3rd Battalion night of September 2-3 and thereafter at head of column.

6. Battalions will march with an interval of 100 yards between companies and trains with an interval of 100 yards between each six vehicles.

7. Trains will follow units to which attached. March discipline and traffic regulations will be strictly enforced. By order of Colonel Lee:

T. Holcomb,
Lieut. Col., U. S. M. C., Operations Officer."

Arriving at Thuilley at 1:30 a. m. September 3rd, Battalion was billeted in camouflaged camp in outskirts of town and men kept under cover throughout the day.

At 8:30 p. m. September 3rd, the march was again taken up in a general northerly direction, arriving in the Bois-de-Chaudeney at 1:40 a. m., September 4th. Here troops were bivouacked and rested until dusk.

Moving out at 9:10 p. m. the Battalion arrived, after much delay due to congested traffic on roads, in the Bois St. Gencoult at 2:45 a. m., September 5th. Some training by small units was carried on here and at 5:00 a. m. September 6th, Captain L. M. Bourne and Second Lieutenant N. F. Dougherty arrived with 93 replacements and casuals.

Captain Bourne was assigned to the command of the 84th Company and Lieut. Dougherty assigned to the 83rd Company. The enlisted men were divided among the four companies so as to make the approximate strength of each 220 men.

September 7th Col. Sibley, with commanding officers of the other battalions, left at 3:00 a. m. to reconnoiter the front line. The trip was made on horseback, covering 65 kilometers and returning at 11:00 p. m. the same day. On this date Major General LeJeune inspected certain companies of this battalion.

Captain J. H. Johnston reported for duty with the Battalion September 8th and was assigned to take command of the 82nd Company.

At 8:50 p. m., September 9th, in accordance with instructions received from Regimental Commander, the Battalion moved out toward the Bois de la Rappe. Col. Sibley had preceded the Battalion in a side car in order to reconnoiter area for bivouac and Captain Berry took command for the night's march. After much delay due to congestion of traffic on roads, the Battalion arrived in the Bois de Manoncourt at 6:30 a. m. and bivouacked for the day, resuming march at 7:15 p. m. and arriving in the Bois de la Rappe at 9:00 p. m. in a heavy rain. Here the Battalion remained all day the 11th making preparations for engaging the enemy. Two hundred and fifty replacements reported and were apportioned among the companies; blanket rolls were stored, two extra bandoleers of ammunition were issued to each man, extra chauchat ammunition and rifle grenades were issued and 20 per cent of the total strength of each company designated to be kept out of the battle. The fighting strength of the Battalion after the 20 per cent were separated remained 21 officers and 918 men. To this were added one officer and thirty men from the Stokes Mortar platoon (3 guns), one officer and fourteen men from the one pounder section (one gun), forty pioneers for wire cutting and one officer and seven enlisted men from the engineers for cooperation with the tanks. Never before had the Battalion gone into an attack so well organized and equipped. Every emergency had been provided for and the success of the affair seemed assured.

The tentative plan of attack for this regiment was received during the afternoon of the 11th and explained in detail to all officers by the Battalion Commander.

At 7:00 p. m. regimental order was received stating that the hour of the attack was to be 5:00 a. m., September 12th. This Battalion was to move to the jumping off trenches in the southern limits of Limey as early in the evening of September 11th as practicable. It was to be in position before 1:00 a. m. September 12th when the artillery preparation was to commence. This Battalion was placed in the first line of the line of this Regiment, the Second being in support and the First on the left as liason with the 89th Division. Ahead of this Regiment was the 23rd Infantry. The companies of this Battalion were arranged as follows: 82nd Company right front line, 83rd, left front line; 97th, right support, and 84th, left support.

Just as the artillery preparation commenced the following message was sent:

"From: C. O., 3rd Btn.
At: P. C.
Date: 12 Sept., 18, 1:08 a. m. No. 1.
To: C. O., 6th.

3rd Btn. in position trenches south of Limey at 1:00 a. m. Stokes Mortars and one-pounders have not arrived. Have liasion with 15th M. G.

(Signed) Sibley."

The 15th Machine Gun Company referred to was the machine gun company assigned to support this Battalion.

Before the attack started liasion was also made with Regimental Headquarters, 2nd Battalion 23rd Infantry and the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines. At the hour of the attack, 5:00 a. m., the 23rd Infantry moved off from its jumping off positions and was followed by this Battalion. There had been little response to our heavy artillery preparation and when the attack started there was no indication that the infantry was meeting heavy opposition. The P. C. of this battalion, which had been in Limey during the artillery preparation, moved forward at 6:15 a. m. and established itself in what had been the jumping off place for the front line, 23rd Infantry. Messages were received about 7:00 a. m. from all the companies of this Battalion that they were following the Infantry advance at 1,000 yards distance and were in liasion with the elements on the right and left. The advance continued across the hills to the north of Limey and at 8:30 our own front line entered the Bois Haie l'Eveque, when the following message was sent:

"From: 3rd Btn.
At: P. C.
Date: 12 Sept. 15, No. 3.
To: C. O., 6th.
Entering Bois Haie l'Eveque and still progressing.
(Signed) Sibley."

Two hours later Battalion had passed through this woods and was reorganizing for further advance, considerable work had to be done in reorganizing, inasmuch as two of the companies (82nd and 97th),

in going through the woods, had moved to the left of the sector. The advance continued with no further opposition and with very slight casualties from shell fire. At 1:00 p. m. the following message was sent:

"From: 3rd Btn.
At: P. C.
Date: 12 Sept. 13, 1:00 p. m. No. 5.
To: C. O. 6th Marines, via C. O. 2nd Btn.

Advancing on THIAUCOURT and about 1 1-2 K. from it. Casualties slight.

(Signed) Sibley."

The advance on Thiaucourt was uninterrupted and the town was skirted by us at about 2:00 p. m., two of our companies having crossed the river just to the west of town. The other two companies (82nd and 97th) were following in the rear, having become somewhat detached. Positions were taken up to the north and northeast of Thiaucourt and at 4:00 p. m. the following message was sent indicating the general situation:

"From: 3rd Btn.
At: P. C.
Date: 12 Sept. Hour 4:00 p. m. No. 5.
To: C. O. 6th.

About an hour or two or more ago we passed to the north of Thiaucourt and took up position about 1,000 yards behind 23rd Infantry with the two companies that remain with us. Enemy shelling our lines, and Infantry fell behind us. Now are in position again.

Our two remaining companies have just reported

in, and are being placed. However, all units are badly disorganized and out of position.

We need rations if possible, some ambulances for a few wounded, and counter work. Artillery has been silent for several hours.

(Signed) Sibley."

At this time the 23rd Infantry was about 1,000 yards behind the army line and were subjected to heavy direct artillery fire; a rearward movement was noticed and two companies of this Battalion were pushed out to support the line. The 82nd and 97th companies reporting up at this time, were given positions on the right in support of the 23rd Infantry, where they spent the night. About 5:00 p. m. the original line was re-established.

The Battalion P. C. was established in the power house building 500 yards northeast of Thiaucort. That night and the following morning were passed quietly. The P. C. of this Battalion was moved to a dugout on the northeast outskirts of town at 1:00 p. m., the 13th.

Orders were received that day from Regimental Headquarters that this Battalion would relieve the front line, held by the 23rd Infantry, at dusk. The companies were assigned as indicated in the following order:

"From: C. O. 3rd Btn.
At: P. C.
Date: 13 Sept. 1918, 6:00 p. m. No. 6.
To: C. O. all Companies.

In accordance with Regimental orders the companies of this battalion will take over positions as

reconnoitered this p. m. 82nd Co. right front line, 83rd Co. left front line, 84th Co. left support, 97th Co. right support. This will be accomplished at dusk and completed at dark. Report to these headquarters as soon as relief is completed. One platoon of 15th M. G. Co. will support right front company another will support left front Co. and another will be in reserve; Stokes Mortars and one-pounder detachment will remain in reserve and will occupy position now held for present.

By order of Lt. Col. Sibley.

(Signed) David Bellamy, Adj."

This relief was completed by 12 midnight. Patrols were also sent out to the right and left front by the front line companies and information sent back that liasion was established with units on the right and left front and that of patrols. The following order was received at 6:00 p. m., the 14th.

"From: C. O. 6th Regt.
At: P. C. Thiaucourt.
Date: 14 Sept. 13—5:40 p. m.
To: C. O. 3rd Btn. 6th. Operations Memo No. 2.

In compliance with verbal instructions from the Brig. Comdr. you will advance your line to the army line this evening as soon as light conditions are favorable. By this line is meant the high ground in your front extending from a point Northeast of JAULNY to the North of Xammes. Arrange the disposition of your local support to suit the terrain and your own judgment.

2. The first Btn. of this Regt. is under orders to execute a reconnaissance to a point about two (2) kilometers to the front, and a copy of the memo is herewith enclosed for your information.

(Signed) Lee."

At 11:40 p. m. the following message was sent, explaining the situation at that time:

"From: 3rd Btn. 6th.
At: P. C.
Date: 14 Sept. 13—11:40 p. m. No. 1.
To: C. O. 6th Regt.

Have just returned from reconnoitering the "army line" and established a P. C. in the southeastern edge of woods (Pill Box) co-ordinates 363.5-242.3.

Company commanders were taken out to center of this line and shown the positions which their companies are to occupy. Companies are now getting into position as best they can in darkness. 97th Co. will be on right front and 84th Co. on left front, 82nd and 83rd Cos. have been ordered to hold in present positions until they can be more advantageously located. This cannot be done in darkness. Will send further report when front line has been established. Two platoons of 15th m. g. Co. have been ordered to support new front line. They are also getting into position. Stokes Mortars and One-Pounders are left in reserve for present.

Major Barker and his companies passed on their way north about 9:00 p. m. Both new and old front line positions are being heavily shelled. At about 11:00 p. m. aeroplanes dropped bombs in vicinity of cross roads 363.3-242.7, near our old front lines, where battalion P. C. was then located.

Report of casualties not received, not believed to be heavy.

(Signed) Sibley, D. B."

The night of the 14th-15th was marked by heavy shelling throughout the entire sector. At daylight on the morning of the 15th the Second Battalion,

under Major Williams, passed through our lines to occupy the Bois de la Montagny, Their advance drew upon us heavy shell fire. There was some uncertainty as to the location of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, and the following message was sent to all companies at 9:30 a. m., 15th.

"From: 3rd Btn. 6th R.
At: P. C.
Date: 15 Sept. 93 Or. No. 5.
To: C. O. 97th and 84th Cos.

Following message just received from regimental: "8:10 a. m. Stay in place on army line till further orders, 2nd Battalion is separated into two bodies, one under Williams and one under Martin. 1st Btn. is in front in Bois de Montagny don't know where. Send patrols to front to locate them and have him (Major Barker) report over phone up at front. Phone in on line with Williams, follow wire up. "Lee" 84th and 97th Cos. will each send a patrol immediately to comply with this order. Runners bearing this message may be able to give information relating to location of phone wire running to front. You will also make an effort to get in touch with both detachments of our 2nd Battalion.

Please send us all information you have relative to conditions and keep us informed.

Sibley."

At 10:30 a. m. a verbal message was received from Colonel Holcomb to send two platoons to support the front line on left in Bois de la Montagny (Hill 231.5) where it was reported that the Boche were counter attacking. Two platoons of the 83rd Company were dispatched at once and took up positions with the

left of the 2nd Battalion, remaining there until 6:00 p. m., when they were recalled by Regimental order.

The entire sector and the vicinity of the P. C. were shelled during the day.

Word was received from Regimental at 2:00 p. m. that the Regiment would be relieved at dark. Later in the afternoon officers from the 310 Infantry (78th Division) reported to reconnoiter the positions held by this Battalion. The relief commenced shortly after midnight and was completed at 3:45 a. m., 16th. Battalion marched by platoons to the Bois d' Heich on the Thiaucourt-Regieville road, where it was bivouacked.

The casualties during these operations amounted to: One officer wounded, seven men killed and forty-three wounded; also 15 men missing. Thirty-seven men were evacuated sick during this period.*

## TRAINING.

At 1:00 p. m. September 16, 1918, battalion marched from Bois l'Heich, arriving at Minorville at 7:00 p. m. and bivouacking in woods one kilometer from Minorville, at dusk. Here the following officers reported from Army Infantry Specialists School: First Lieutenants Noble, McFarland and Marshall and Second Lieutenants Minter, Zook, Wilmot, Callan, Richardson and Beckwith. Battalion Headquarters was established in a hospital barracks in

*This report has not been revised to comply with latest official figures but is approximately correct.

the town of Minorville and the usual work of cleaning up clothing, personnel and equipment, was begun. Some clothing was issued. The continued rain made the bivouac rather uncomfortable and effort was made to find billets for the men.

On September 18th Col. Sibley was evacuated to S.O.S. hospital with eye trouble and overwork. This was the last the Battalion saw of the man who organized, trained and commanded it through three major operations. Captain George K. Shuler reported as Battalion Commander the afternoon of September 18th.

Verbal orders were received from Regimental Commander September 20 to prepare to move that day. Billeting party was sent out at 4:00 p. m., the battalion marching at 6:30 p. m. Continuing the march the battalion arrived at Choloy at 2:30 a. m. September 21, and billeted. At 7:30 a. m., the 21st, orders were received from Regimental Commander directing Lieut. Marshall and two scouts to proceed to Regimental Headquarters in Foug from whence they would be taken on reconnoitering trip to the front. The usual 24 hours was devoted to cleaning up and resting after which a drill program was put into effect and carried out during the stay at this town.

One day liberty within the divisional area, including Toul, was granted to 10 per cent of the command on the 23rd and 24th of September.

Lieut. Marshall and two scouts returned from reconnoitering trip on the 25th.

## CHAMPAGNE OFFENSIVE.

### (Operations Near Blanc Mont Ridge.)

In accordance with orders from Regimental Commander received the evening of September 26th, the battalion marched at 4:30 a. m., September 27th, to the entraining point at Domgermain. After having breakfast on the loading platform, battalion entrained and left at 9:30 a. m. Arriving at Chalons-sur-Marne at 5:30 p. m., the battalion detrained and marched to Moncetz, arriving at 9:40 p. m., the 27th. Orders were received that battalion was to prepare to move at an hour's notice and the final touches of re-equipping and outfitting men were put on.

At 4:00 p. m., September 28th, orders received for billeting party to assemble at Brigade Headquarters at Sarry immediately. The area was unknown but the general impression was that the movement was toward Suippes.

This billeting party returned September 29th and battalion embussed in camions at 5:30 p. m. that day, destination unknown. The trains had preceded the troops, leaving at 9:00 a. m. for Somme-Suippes Camions proceeded through Chalons-sur-Marne where a cheering crowd lined the streets to pay tribute to their old friends, the Second Division. Debussing in northern outskirts of Suippes battalion marched to trenches two kilometers north of Suippes and bivouacked for the night, together with the other battalions of this regiment.

The following day, September 30, this battalion moved to more comfortable quarters in a nearby French camp, where the kitchens were brought up. At 4:00 p. m. on the 1st of October, verbal instructions were received by the battalion Commander that the battalion would move forward at dusk through Souain to the trenches south of Somme-Py. At 6:00 p. m. the Regimental Commander called the battalion Commander, Scout Officer and one officer from each company to go forward and reconnoiter, it being then thought that this battalion would occupy trenches immediately to the south of the railroad running west from Somme-Py.

The 20 per cent reserve as designated was left behind and the march of this battalion was begun at 8 p. m.. following the First battalion. Attached to this battalion were the 15th Machine Gun Company, Captain Kingman, two Stokes Mortars and one One-Pounder section. The road was heavily blocked with traffic and progress was slow. Pyrotechnics, hand grenades and engineering tools, but no V. B. grenades, were picked up enroute. The following message was received en route:

"From: Hq. 6th Regt.
Date: 1 Oct. 1918—9:35 p. m.
To: C. O. 3rd Btn.

Your position in trenches Dusseldorf and Gottingue. Our regimental P. C. at 7863. Guides will meet you a little south of place we told you to go. Explain to them that you are third line Battalion.

By order of Col. Lee.

(Signed) Holcomb."

At 4:30 a. m. this battalion took position in the trenches Dusseldorf and Gottingue southwest of Somme-Py where the following order was received at 9:25 a. m., October 2nd.

"From: C. O. 6th Marines.
At: P. C. 78—59.
Date: 2 Oct. 18—9:20 a. m. By runner.
To: C. O. 3rd Battalion.

On "D" day and "H" hour I have warning that this regiment will advance in three echelons to the North and West against the positions held by the enemy in our immediate front in trenches Pacha and D'Essen, then a little West of North to include Blanc-Mont. In this event, 2nd Battalion leading with two companies in its front line and 2 in local support will be followed by the 1st and 3rd respectively at about 800 to 1,000 metres. Similarly disposed and during the advance guarding carefully our left flank for the entire advance to Blanc Mont. Precautions must be taken in each Bn. for flank protection as it is not known definitely that a flank guard will be provided. Precautions must be taken in each Btn. for combat liaison with the battalions on their right "of the 5th Regiment." It will be well if in each Btn. as many maps are marked to show the regimental sector and as much consideration of the maps be had as is possible before "H" hour. The boundaries of the regimental sectors will be as follows:

**Western**

from 266.9-277.0 North to 277.7 then Northwest to 265.8-280.8

**Eastern**

from 268.0-277.7 to 267.2-280.1.

It is thought the order might make this the final

objective where possibly the 3rd Brigade will leap-frog to conduct exploitation.

Until orders are received make this your plan and be prepared to move to its execution before noon. Packs should be left at the jumping-off point under charge of one man from each platoon. In case of shortage of grenades search should be made for a supply in the sectors you now occupy. Impress all men with the fact that musketry is still KING and they have but to sit tight and shoot straight insuring superiority of fire and guaranteeing success.

(Signed) Lee."

At 10:50 a. m. an order from Regimental Commander was received postponing the attack for 24 hours.

The next morning, October 3, at 5:10 a. m., the following order was received:

"From: C. O. 6th Marines.
At: P. C.
Date: 3 Oct. 5:00 a. m. By runner.
To: C. O. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Btns. 6th Marines.

This division attacks this morning at 5:50 a. m. 3rd Brigade on the right, 4th Brigade on the left. Direction of attacks and objectives as shown on attached sketch. This Brigade will attack in column of regiments: The 6th Regiment in the first line, and the 5th forming the 2nd line or support. This regiment will take the usual form of attack, column of battalions; one battalion first line, one battalion in the second and one in the third. Distance between battalions about 1,000 yards.

2. There will be five minutes' artillery preparation before the infantry attacks. At zero hour a rolling barrage will begin and will precede the infantry

Map 4—Somme Py, Blanc Mont, St. Etienne; (Champagne Sector) (A)—Position 11 a. m. 3 Oct. 1918. (B)—Position 5:10 p. m. 5 Oct. 1918 (C)—Position 7:30 a. m. 6 Oct. 1918 until relieved

advance at the rate of 100 metres in four minutes to the objective where a standing barrage will be put on 300 metres beyond the objective for 30 minutes where the rolling barrage will continue for 1,400 metres further for the support of patrols and establishment of outpost lines.

3. Tanks will be assigned as follows:

One company (12 tanks) to the leading battalion of this regiment in the usual front line attack formation.

One company (12 tanks) to the battalion of the second line this regiment taking position in rear of right and left flank to repel attacks and counter-attacks.

These tanks will be under the command of the battalion commanders to which assigned. Each battalion will provide suitable flank protection for his own organization. The Commanding Officer of the 5th regiment will detail his rear battalion to watch the hook from the trenches on our left flank. If it is not necessary to attack the hook this battalion will advance as left flank guard.

4. All trooops will be in position at "H" minus two hours.

5. Attached is copy of division order just received 4:45 a. m.

6. P. C. of this regiment will remain in present position until the first objective is reached when it will be moved to a point 680.5-768.0.

(Signed) Lee."

According to above instructions this Battalion advanced at 5:50 a. m. 1,000 yards in rear of First Battalion. The companies were placed as follows: 83rd on right, supported by 82nd; 97th on left, sup-

ported by 84th. Our P. C. advanced along the Boyau Landshut.

The battalion advanced steadily until about 7 o'clock, when the 97th Company reported that it was held up by enemy machine gun fire from the left, which caused a few casualties. At 7:30 four tanks were seen advancing upon these machine gun nests. Forty minutes later the 97th reported that machine guns were silenced and that they were advancing.

We advanced without further trouble and with few casualties until about 9:40 a. m., when Lieutenant Noble, 83rd Company, reported that the First Battalion had passed through the Second Battalion and had reached objective on the Blanc Mont ridge. This Battalion halted in reserve position 800 yards in rear of Second Battalion where it dug in.

The following messages were sent as indicated and explain the situation at the end of the first phase of the attack:

"From: 3rd Btn. 6th Regiment.
Date: 3 Oct. 10:10 a. m. No. 6. By runner.
To: C. O. 6th Regiment.

I understand 1st Btn. has passed thru 2nd Btn. and holds objective. I am ordering my 83rd Co. which at present extends from road West to Boyau D' Ausborg at 267.3 and 280.2 to line 267.0. My 97th Co. which has reported in touch with 83rd. I will move to the West so as to occupy with that company one-third of the line. My 84th Co. will be placed on the left of the 97th. I have no report from 84th Co. but know that it has advanced in rear of 97th. My 82nd is now in rear of 83rd. I will move to a

position in rear of center. My P. C. is at present at 267.3-279.4 in trench D'Ausborg. I intend to move along trench running to the left. 2nd Battalion 5th Regiment Commander is about 200 yards to my rear. I have sent word to him to watch the left. No further report of casualties received.

(Signed) Shuler."

"From: C. O. 3rd Btn.
Date: 3 Oct. 18 11:43 a. m. No. 7. By runner.
To: C. O. 2nd Btn. 6th Marines.

I have ordered my 84th Co. to take up position extending from our left line Northeast to 266.5-280.0 My line extends from there to 267.6-280.3 I can help you support the left. Advise me what position would be best. Will you inform this runner of the location of Barker's P. C. and disposition of his companies if possible.

(Signed) Shuler."

"From: C. O. 3rd Btn.
Date: 3 Oct. 11:50 a. m. No. 9. By runner.
To: C. O. 2nd Btn. 6th Marines.

Officer from 2nd Battalion 5th Regiment just came here and showed me orders Messersmith to fill gap between 6th Marines on left and the French. He is proceeding to do so.

(Signed) Shuler."

"From: C. O. 3rd Btn. 6th Regiment.
Date: 3 Oct. 12:10 p. m. No. 10. By runner.
To: C. O. 1st Btn. 6th Regiment.

My P. C. 267.2-279.6 in trench. I am now getting my line established from 267.3 to 280.6 to 266.1 to 279.7. Just received message from Williams stating enemy was circling left and asking for help. At same time this message was received Messersmith commanding second battalion 5th Marines showed

me his orders to immediately fill up any gap between 6th Marines and French on our left."

The line of the Third Battalion as ordered in the above messages was exactly taken up.

The following messages further explain the situation which developed on left and the action taken:

"From: C. O. 1st Bn. at P. C.
Date: 3 Oct. 18 11:30 a. m. No. 11. By runner.
To: C. O. 3rd Bn. 6th Marines.

Have reached our objective and consolidating line. 2nd battalion on our left, 23rd infantry on right. Left flank exposed. Expect counter-attack. Have you seen 5th Marines? Let us know your exact location of P. C. and your companies.

(Signed) Barker."

"From: C. O. 3rd Bn.
Date: 3 Oct. 11:55 a. m. No. 8. By runner.
To: C. O. 6th Regiment.

The following message just received from Major Williams, Second Battalion. We need support on our left flank. The French have not come up and our left is in the air. The enemy about 700 or 800 strong are going around our left and threaten an encircling movement. Can you give us any help. I sent message to Williams that I would give him support and asked his advice as to location for same. Between sending that message and writing this one Messersmith commanding 2nd Bn. 5th Regiment showed me his orders from Commanding Officer 5th Regiment 'To immediately fill in any gap between 6th Regt. and the French on our left.' His order was to do so without further orders. I have sent Major Williams' runner to Messersmith to take back any message and

have sent message to Major Williams informing him of Messersmith's orders.

(Signed) Shuler."

"From: C. O. 3rd Btn.
Date: 3 Oct. 1:30 p. m. No. 11. By runner.
To: C. O. 1st Btn.

My Co's disposed as sketch shows. According to your co-ordinates farthest point on my line is about 800 metres in your rear with good communication through trench D'Ausbourg. However, if you want line closer can move it forward. Give me an idea of where you would like my line to better support you.

(Signed) Shuler."

"From: C. O. 1st Btn. at P. C.
Date: 3 Oct. 18 12:40 No. 13. By runner.
To: C. O. 3rd Btn.

1st and 2nd Bats. on front line with no support. In need of a support line. Can you help us out.

(Signed) Barker."

When the line of this Battalion was established in support of the First and Second Battalions, the following situation became evident: The advance of our regiment had been unimpeded to the objective on the Blanc Mont ridge. But the French on our left had not advanced and in fact there was an exposed flank to the left of two or three kilometers. Our leading battalions in order to keep in touch with our brigade on the right, had veered slightly to the right and the dense woods on and approaching Blanc Mont had not been cleared of enemy machine guns. It was to protect this flank that the line of the battalion was swung in a partial semi-

circle as support to the left as indicated in the above messages.

During the afternoon the 22nd Division, French, crossed our rear from the right and began cleaning up the woods on our left flank, from which a great deal of machine gun fire had been enfilading our positions. Elements of the 170th Division, French, also came up in support of us.

Elements of the Fifth Regiment, which during the afternoon and early evening had been supporting our left and center moved forward ahead of the line of this regiment (ridge road) during the evening and took up positions somewhat in advance. Our left flank was protected during the night of October 3, 4, by liaison patrols which connected up with the French.

Water carts and ration carts with hot food were brought up in the evening. Thereafter each night hot food was brought up to the men in the trenches by Battalion Quartermaster, Lieut. Herreid, from the rolling kitchens which were placed in the Bois de Somme-Py.

At 6:35 a. m., October 4th, a message was received from C. O. 6th, stating that measures had been taken to strengthen our flank by the addition of chasseurs on our left and of other French troops on their front to our left. A lateral artillery barrage of heavy calibre was arranged for on the neutral ground on our left according to report. Combat liaison was established on left with 3rd Battalion, 67th Regiment, 22nd French Division at 9:30 a. m. This French Division attacked on our left at 9:50 a. m. and advanced to

the east. This advance however did not drive the enemy from their strong positions on Blanc Mont on our left flank. This was because the French turned to the left of Blanc Mont which point had been erroneously reported as taken.

During the early morning and most of the day our positions were heavily shelled causing a number of casualties. At 11:05 a. m. Lieut. Church, Commanding 84th Company sent word that he was shell-shocked and could not retain command of company. Lieut. Rowan was sent to take command of company. At 2:20 p. m. verbal message from 84th company that all but two officers were casualties was received. Lieut. Roberts of 82nd Company was ordered to take command of the 84th.

Phone message was received at 12:50 p. m. from Col. Lee stating that the 5th Regiment would attack at 2:30 p. m. in accordance with Division Field Order No. 37; the 6th Regiment would move off at same time, as support in following order; Second Battalion Third Battalion and First Battalion. First Battalion was ordered to move out immediately to cover the left flank of the 5th Regiment on our front.

Although the attack was to begin at 2:30 p. m. the following message was received from the C. O. 2nd Battalion at 2:20 p. m. and sent in immediately to C. O. 6th.

"From: C. O. 2nd Btn. at P. C.
Date: 4 Oct. 18 1:55 p. m. No. 1. By runner.
To: C. O. 6th Marines.

The limits now actually held by this Btn. are Eastern, 266.9-281.2 Western, 266.1-280.7 instead of as

previously reported. Location of barracks and roads on our left flank (present) confused us with what should actually have been our left flank, about 450 metres more to the left. The enemy consequently holds a good portion of Blanc Mont and is about 150 yards distant from the lines we hold along our Eastern flank. Their position here is heavily held with machine guns and exposure at this point in daylight hours subjects the men to heavy sniping from his position, which is as commanding as our own. The enemy covers the low ground in front of us with his machine gun fire and advance without heavy losses on this flank is impossible without heavy artillery preparation on his position on our left or until the French advance on our left and take this position. Our effectives are approximately as follows:

78th Co.—95, 80th Co.—60, 96th—65, 79th—85. Casualties in officers about 40 per cent.

(Signed) Williams."

This meant that the Blanc Mont stronghold had not been reduced and was still a menace on our left. At the "H" hour, 2:30, this battalion advanced but the P. C. remained in same place. The companies advanced until they approached the first battalion, which was still in the vicinity of the Ridge road, and then halted. At 2:40 phone message from C. O. 2nd Battalion, stating that he was not going to advance because of machine gun fire of enemy on left.

Verbal orders (phone) were received from Col. Lee at 3:05 p. m. to halt all companies and to clean out the machine gun nests on our left. Artillery fire was to be concentrated on nests until 3:35 p. m. The

battalion commander sent instructions to 97th and 82nd Companies to halt until 3:35 and then advance on machine gun nests and reduce them. The 83rd and 84th Companies were ordered to "Stand By" to support 97th and 82nd in this attack.

These orders for attack were delayed, however, and because also of insufficient artillery preparation this attack on the machine gun nests was postponed until 4:45 p. m., at which time artillery was to lift its fire from the Blanc Mont area. Instructions were sent to companies that the attack would begin at 4:45 p. m.

After reports by the Adjutant and Scout Officer on enemy positions and the ineffectiveness of artillery fire the Battalion Commander sent the following message to C. O., 6th Regiment at 4:35 p. m.

"From: 3rd Btn. C. O.
Date: 4 Oct. 18 4:35 p. m. No. 3. By runner.
To: C. O. 6th Regiment.

It is impossible to clean out Blanc Mont without adequate artillery preparation. There has been no real heavy artillery fire put in the woods up to present time. They are now firing an occasional seventy-five, which is not effective. Machine guns are firing from there all the time. It is strongly held. I have ordered C. O. 97th Co. to use his judgment about taking machine gun nests. It will require a heavy concentration to properly prepare for an attack. A concentration of one-half kilometer around the words "Blanc Mont" (Tahure map 1-20.000) would be right. Will call you up as soon as phone is working.

(Signed) Shuler."

At 5:12 the Commanding Officer, 6th Regiment was requested to concentrate heavy artillery fire on one-half kilometer square around words "Blanc Mont" from 6 to 6:30.

At 5:15 Lieutenant Marshall carried the following verbal order to companies, "Fall back to road; attack if possible at 6:30. And at 5:40 the following message phoned to Commanding Officer, 6th Regiment, "Don't start barrage unless I call for it. I want to be sure companies are clear of woods."

Meanwhile the 97th and 82nd Companies at 4:45 p. m. had advanced upon the machine gun nests. The 97th Company encountered two machine gun nests with crews which they captured. These two companies were still advancing when orders reached them to fall back. Thirteen prisoners were taken by the 97th Company.

Word was received at 6:10 p. m. that the 97th, 82nd, and 84th Companies had withdrawn from Blanc Mont. Inasmuch as it was decided to postpone the attack until morning the four companies were then ordered to retire to the positions they had at 2:30 p. m. before they advanced.

Heavy shelling of our positions continued all afternoon resulting in a number of casualties. Intermittent shelling of positions continued throughout the night of October 4-5. Our own artillery had been feeble in its preparation for the attack on Blanc Mont. Enemy fire on our positions had been much heavier than our own "destructive" fire had been in the area which was to be reduced. In the attack

of the following morning the artillery preparation was heavier but by no means destructive.

At 11:00 p. m. the following order was received:

"Headquarters 6th Regiment,
Marine Corps, A. E. F.,
France, 4 Oct. 18.
Hour 9:27 p. m.

**FIELD ORDERS**

1. The enemy have established a machine gun nest on Blanc Mont.

2. The 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, will attack and drive the enemy from this position.

3. (a) Artillery preparation with 155s and 75s will be given between 5:15 a. m. and 6:15 a. m., 5 Oct., firing on the area included between the points 265.79-281.0: 266.04-281.12: 265.9-280.3: 266.2-280.4: and after 6:15 a. m. artillery will rake woods to the north of this area.

(b) The 3rd Battalion will be in position to attack at 6:15 a. m. and will attack as soon as the artillery fire shifts to the North of the occupied area.

4. Messages to present P. C. of 3rd Battalion and thence by telephone to Regimental P. C.

(Signed) Lee."

In accordance with this order the Third Battalion attacked at 6:15 a. m. advancing on left flank from the East; 97th, 82nd and 84th in line and 83rd in support. At 7:35 a. m. word was received from 82nd, 84th and 97th companies that their objective Mont Blanc was reached, and that they were digging in. During this short engagement they captured 4 officers, 269 prisoners, 80 machine guns, a number

of trench-mortars and other material. No casualty was sustained.

At 8:45 a. m. the following message was sent to the companies of this battalion:

"From: C. O. 3rd Btn. at P. C.
Date: 5 Oct. 18 8:45 a. m. No. 1. By runner.
To: C. O. 82, 83, 84 and 97th Companies.

The following just received from Regimental Headquarters, 'From site. Time 8:15. This regiment will at once be organized and be prepared to pass through the 5th Marines when ordered. Usual formation. Order of battalions, front to rear, Williams, Shuler, Barker.—Lee.' This battalion will follow the 2nd Battalion in this order: front line, 82nd Co., left, 97th Co., right, 2nd line, 84th Co., left, 83rd Co., right. The 97th Co. will keep in touch with battalion headquarters, 2nd Battalion, and inform the 82nd, 83rd and 84th Companies of any orders received. This battalion will follow 2nd Btn. at usual distance of 1,000 metres. The regimental C. O. congratulates us on this morning's work.

(Signed) Shuler."

The following was received by phone from C. O., 6th, at 12:15 p. m. and copies sent to 2nd and 1st bns.: "The French have advanced on our left thru St. Etienne. This regiment will advance immediately in the following order, Williams, Shuler, Barker, passing through the 5th Regiment on our front. Objective is beyond a line connecting Cauroy and Machault. The liaison will be kept up with the French on our left and the 3rd Brigade on our right. Should the 3rd Brigade be held up so that by our

advancing liaison will be broken, this regiment will halt. The movement will conform to the movement of the French on our left. The advance is along the lines laid out as for the attack of yesterday. The regimental P. C. will move to Major Williams' present P. C."

The following order was received at 12:20 p. m. from the C. O., 6th Regiment by phone and copies sent to 1st and 2nd Battalions: "Regimental Commander directs that the advance will not go beyond St. Etienne without further orders. This is the latest order and supercedes other messages."

At 1:00 p. m. this P. C. advanced to Blanc Mont. At 4:30 this battalion advanced in support of the second battalion 1,000 yards to the rear: 82nd company left front supported by 84th, 97th, right front supported by 83rd. The battalion advanced as directed through light enemy artillery barrage until 5:10 p. m. when it was forced to halt and dig in, as the second battalion was held up by enemy machine gun fire from their right front. Information was sent to the C. O. 6th. regiment. Our P. C. was established in cable man-hole 265.6-282.1. At 6:45 the following order was received from the Commanding Officer, 6th.

"From: C. O. 6th at P. C.
Date: 5 Oct. 18 6:20 p. m. By runner.
To: C. O. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Btns.

As soon as light conditions will permit the first Btn. now in third line will proceed to relieve the 3rd Bn. now in their front in 2nd line. As soon as re-

lieved by the 1st Btn. the 3rd Btn. will proceed from the 2nd line and relieve the 2nd Btn. now in the 1st line. The 2nd Btn. as soon as relieved by the 3rd Btn. now in the 1st line will retire to the third line, position just South of the road. Water carts, rolling kitchens, etc. will be up shortly and when they arrive meals will be cooked and battalion commander notified.

(Signed) Lee."

A message was immediately sent to C. O., 6th, suggesting that if this battalion was to attack the next morning it would be better if this battalion passed through the 2nd battalion in the morning than to attempt a relief in the dark that night. Later in the evening an order was received for the relief to be held in abeyance until just before daylight the following morning. The night passed quietly.

At 1:00 a. m., October 6th, time was moved back one hour. At 2:00 a. m., October 6th, the following order was received from C. O., 6th Regiment:

"Headquarters, 6th Regiment,
Marine Corps, American E. F.
France, 6 Oct. 18.
Hour 1:30 a. m.

**FIELD ORDER NO.**
MAP—S. T. C. A. 1-20,000

1. The enemy occupies three machine gun nests in the sector of this division about 500 yards north of our line.

2. The Third Battalion, 6th Marines, operating in conjunction with the 2nd battalion of the 23rd Inf. on its right will attack and capture or destroy the enemy and occupy the position.

3. (a) The attack begins at 6:30 a. m. and is preceded by one hour's artillery preparation as indicated in artillery program attached. At 6:30 a. m. an artillery barrage will move forward to the line indicated in the artillery program where it remains until 7:00 a. m.

(b) Boundary limits—Eastern: the Eastern limit of regimental sub-sector. Western: Western limit of division sector.

(c) Upon obtaining the objective the troops will consolidate the line indicated in red in attached sketch.

4. Messages to Regimental P. C.

(Signed) Lee."

Copies to: C. O. 3rd Btn.: C. G. 4th Brig.: C. O. 5th Reg.: C. O. 23rd. Inf.: C. O. 62nd Inf. French and File."

Company Commanders were called to the Third Battalion P. C. at 3:00 a. m. and instructions given for the attack. The third battalion was to advance to the second line of trenches East of St. Etienne. The advance was begun at 6:30 a. m., October 6th, and an hour later the objective was reached. The 97th Company suffered severe casualties from machine gun fire in this operation and when it advanced again at 8:45 a. m. met very heavy machine gun fire from the right front. The casualties in the four Third Battalion companies were approximately 35 to 40 per cent of the effectives engaged, mostly from machine gun fire.

After the attack, liaison was established on right with 23rd Infantry and on left with 62nd Regiment

(French). At 3:00 p. m. however, the French evacuated St. Etienne, leaving our flank exposed.

Our line and flank positions were shelled heavily all day. An infiltration movement by the enemy was noticed in the afternoon toward St. Etienne, which was re-occupied by the enemy.

At 3:30 p. m. guides were sent to Regimental Headquarters to bring out a reconnoitering party for supposed relief. In accordance with the following message, at 8:30 p. m., guides were sent to Regimental headquarters to act as guides to the platoons of the relieving 142nd Regiment, 2nd Battalion:

"From: C. O. 6th Marines. At P. C.
Date: 6 Oct. 18 6:40 p. m. By runner.

You will have at these headquarters, not later than 9:00 p. m. this date a guide from each platoon, who will act as guides to the platoons of the relieving (142nd) Regiment. Upon the arrival of this regiment for relief, these guides will escort corresponding platoons of the companies to their positions in line. Men detailed for this purpose must be familiar with the route from these headquarters, to their platoon positions. Upon their arrival in place the relieved units will remain in place with the relieving units. A copy of the Brigade Order for the relief will be forwarded to you, as soon as the copies can be made. The machine gun company, stokes mortars and one pounder will remain with the relieving regiment until relieved by the special troops of that regiment. Probably October 7th.

Organization commanders will furnish the necessary staff officers in order to enable the officers of the relieving regiment to make a thorough reconnaissance of the front line. Specific orders for the

withdrawal of this regiment are necessary, and until received this regiment, with the exceptions quoted above (M. G. C., Stokes and one pounder troops) will remain in place.

(Signed) Lee."

The relief was completed at 6:00 a. m., October 7th. This battalion remained in same position with the 2nd Battalion of the 142nd Infantry. The Machine Gun Company, Stokes Mortars and One Pounders were attached temporarily to relieving battalion. This relief was completed in accordance with Fourth Brigade, Field Order No. 21.

During the night of October 6-7 a strong combat liaison was established with French troops on left, who during the night had re-entered St. Etienne. The French Commanding Officer informed Regimental Headquarters that his regiment held all of the town, and that his right was near the cemetery to the east of the town. He also requested that the gap between this right and our left be closed by us.

On the morning of the 7th, the Commanding Officer, 6th Regiment, on request of Division Commander, asked for information as to whether the enemy had withdrawn from our front. Also information was requested as to width, depth and character of banks of small stream running thru St. Etienne. Patrols and scouts were sent out to obtain this information. They reported that the stream was narrow and the banks afforded easy crossing. From the continual shell fire and machine gun harassment, which our front lines were continually subjected to,

it was evident that the enemy was still in contact with us. In fact for three days the light and heavy artillery of the enemy played at will upon our front line positions. Our trenches, the positions of which were known to him, our P. C. and the lines of communication were continually shelled. The enemy was able by direct observation to fire at men in trenches and even to snipe at runners or any other target with their 88s. We suffered serious casualties from this. During the first two days that the hill Southeast of St. Etienne was occupied by us our lines were continually harassed by machine gun nests to our immediate right front. This continued shell fire told greatly upon the spirits of the men who had been in the open for over a week without blankets, with a scanty supply of water and with but one warm meal a day. Repeated calls for counter-battery work were made upon our artillery during the day following our attack on the hill Southeast of St. Etienne. Little if any response to these calls was noticed. Our artillery devoted most of its attention to enemy infantry targets. When destructive fire was asked for in certain localities meagre response was noted.

At 11:00 a. m., October 7th, Lieutenant Noble reported that his platoon had found Germans in the trenches at the right of town, and at 2:40 p. m. the following message was received from Lieut. Noble and sent to Commanding Officer, 6th Regiment.

"It is estimated that at least 200 of enemy are still in the town, and more are seen filtering from over the hill into the town. It is believed that they

are trying to filter into the N. E. end of town, and drive the remaining French out. Their barrage did not play on part of town to the N. E. of church. They occupy a trench near the town, between us and the town. They are probably trying to strike the French right flank and later our left flank. It is believed necessary for the Americans to advance some troops (probably a Btn.) to occupy trench between us and the town as soon as possible, or else advance here.

(Signed) A. H. Noble."

At 6:30 p. m. word was received from the Commanding Officer, 6th Regiment that the 1st Battalion would occupy the gap between the French and our left. This movement was completed during the night.

Our positions were heavily shelled during the day and night of October 7th, producing a number of casualties.

At 5:05 a. m., October 8th the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, 142nd Regiment, whose Battalion was in line with this battalion, and whose battalion was badly disorganized received orders to attack at 5:45 a. m., the objective being Cauroy. After a heavy barrage the above battalion supported by tanks advanced upon German positions. They cleared out the machine gun nests on our right front, and established a line east of St. Etienne, about one kilometer from the jumping off position. They sustained very heavy losses, took some prisoners and became entirely disorganized.

Our battalion constituted part of division reserve and remained in position. The following message was sent at 1:25 p. m.:

"From: C. O. 3rd Btn., 6th Rgt.
At: P. C.
Date: 8 Oct., 18, 1:25 p. m. No. 1 by runner.
To: C. O. 6th Rgt.

The men of this battalion are getting in very bad shape physically. Their spirit is good and I haven't heard a complaint, but the fact remains that they have been through hell and are under constant shell fire and no let up. I believe that the machine gun nests that have worried our line so much are now wiped out. I am getting in liasion with whatever units are on my right and left.

(Signed) Shuler."

At 5:00 p. m. a very heavy enemy barrage was placed just back of the new line established by the 142nd Regiment, producing a heavy concentration of high explosive gas. As a result the men holding that line retreated through barrage and through our lines, thus losing the ground gained in the morning. This Battalion remained in line and did much in organizing stragglers. The strong points were established in the woods on our right front, that had previously been enemy machine gun nests. Our original positions were made secure. Many infantrymen of the 142nd Regiment reached our P. C. where they were stopped and ordered to dig in on a newly formed line.

Our positions continued to be heavily shelled all day and night. At 5:00 a. m., October 9th, a heavy enemy barrage was placed on our position, but there was no attack.

Efforts were made during the day by the 142nd Regiment to reorganize and take up line in front of our positions.

The following was the line strength of our companies on the morning of October 9th.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 82nd Co..... | 1 Officer..... | 69 men |
| 97th Co..... | 3 Officers..... | 63 men |
| 83rd Co..... | 6 Officers..... | 90 men |
| 84th Co..... | 2 Officers..... | 65 men |
| | 12 | 288 |

At 1:05 p. m. word was received that 6th Regiment would be relieved that night and would proceed to the Suippe area. At 1:45 p. m. billeting party was sent out. At midnight the battalion left the line and marched to Suippe, arriving there at 8:00 a. m., having halted for two hours at Medeah Farm where hot breakfast was served.

Captain Jacobsen reported on October 11th and was given command of the 84th Company. The same day 82 replacements arrived and were distributed as follows: 82nd Company, 21; 83rd Company, 20; 84th Company, 23; 97th Company, 18.

Advantage was taken of hot shower baths and delousing equipment and all men given baths, deloused and issued one suit of underwear each.

In accordance with Divisional Field Orders No. 42 and march table attached, this battalion marched to Vadenay, morning of 14th, and billeted.

October 16th 136 replacements arrived and were distributed as follows: 82nd Company, 33; 83rd Com-

pany, 30; 84th Company, 28; 97th Company, 45. Captain Pink H. Stone, reported October 17 and was assigned to command 82nd Company.

A complete drill schedule was put in effect at Vadenay and companies were given opportunity to reorganize. Officers and men were given liberty to Chalons-sur-Marne.

## "PROPOSED RELIEF OF 73d FRENCH" DIVISION

At 6:15 a. m., October 20, verbal orders were received from Regimental Commander to prepare to march that day. At 11:25 a. m. the following memorandum was received:

"Headquarters, Sixth Regiment,
Marine Corps, American E. F.
France, 20 October, 1918.

MEMORANDUM: For C. O., 3rd Battalion:

(1) Have your dinner as early as possible and proceed with your battalion and train via the route by which you came to your present billets to Suippes, where you will occupy your former billets. Should the billeting truck not have arrived before you leave, direct your billeting party to await its arrival at Vadenay. By order Colonel Lee:

Pere Wilmer, Capt. U. S. M. C., Adj."

In accordance with the above memorandum battalion marched at 1:00 p. m., arriving at Suippe at 5:30 p. m. Billeted there for the night. The following field order was received at 3:30 a. m., 21st October:

"Headquarters, Sixth Regiment,
Marine Corps, Am. E. F.
France, 21 Oct., 1918.

SECRET—Field Order No. 18.
Time: 3:10 a. m.
Maps: Sheet Verdun.

1. In accordance with Field Order No. 24, Hdq. 4th Brigade, 20 Oct., 18, this regiment will move towards the line for the purpose of relieving the 73rd D. I. (French) in the region Voncq-Attigny. The sector will be occupied with both regiments of this Brigade in the front line, the 5th Regiment on the right, the 6th Regiment on the left. The disposition of this regiment will be as follows: 2nd Bn. in front line, 3rd Bn. in support, and the 1st Bn. in reserve.

2. This regiment will march 21st Oct., 18, to the area: Leffincourt (incl.), Mazagran, area west of high road Mazagran-Somme Py to the heights of Chateau Bemont (exclusive), and Orfeuil (exclusive), Medeah Farm (exclusive.)

This regiment will occupy the western part of the above area. The disposition will be as follows: 2nd Bn. in Leffincourt and vicinity, 3rd Bn. in Camp Bayen Lager North, 1st Bn., Hdqr. Co., Supply Co. and attached troops in southern part of area.

By order of Colonel Lee:
H. P. Mason, Capt. U. S. M. C.,
Operations Officer."

The following modification of Field Order 18 was received at 6:00 a. m.

"Headquarters, Sixth Regiment,
Marine Corps, Am. E. F.
France, 21 Oct., 1918.

Field Orders No. 18.

1. Field Order No. 18, these headquarters, 21 October, 18, is modified to conform with following Special Orders No. 41, 9th Army Corps, French:

"No. 27 road, Suippes-Somme-Py forbidden as far as Medeah Farm. Route allowed, Perthe, Tahure, Mont Muret, Tunel de Manre, Orfeuil. Take to the Pistes (paths) at will."

By order of Colonel Lee:
H. P. Mason, Capt., Adjutant."

In accordance with the above orders battalion marched at 8:00 a. m., October 21, via route given. After marching from 8:00 a. m. until 10:30 p. m. (three hours rest at noon), the battalion, because of exhausted condition of men, was halted for a few hours' rest and men allowed to bivouac along road. At 5:30 a. m., October 22, the march was resumed reaching Camp Bayen Lager North at 9:00 a. m. Battalion was billeted comfortably in barracks and hot meal served at 10:30 a. m.

At 1:00 p. m. the following field message was received:

"From: C. O. 6th Marines.
At: Leffincourt, France.
Date: 22 Oct. 18, 8:30 a. m. by motorcycle.
To: C. O. 1, 2 and 3 Bn.

Measures for the relief of the 73rd Division, French, by this Brigade are discontinued, by order of the Commanding General, 9th Army Corps, French. All movements by troops of this regiment,

except those necessary to take positions ordered in Field Order No. 24, 20th inst., will be discontinued and troops will remain in place until further orders. You will have intelligence officers furnish accurate sketch of positions immediately. Lee."

At 2:00 p. m. the following message was received:

"From: C. O. 6th Marines.
At: Leffincourt.
Date: 22 Oct., 18; 11:45 a. m. By motorcycle.
To: C. O. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bns., Hdqrs. Supply Co.'s Surgeon.

The 2nd Division will move today, P. C. to be at Herpont. This regiment remains in position today and will move tomorrow. We are returning to the First Army. Give careful attention to the feet of the men; avoid loss of any equipment. Further details later. Lee."

## MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS

In accordance with subsequent orders Battalion marched at 7:30 a. m., Oct. 23rd, via Somme-Py arriving at "Camp Four-Fifths" four kilometers Northeast of Suippes, at 5:30 p. m. Train arrived at 6:15 p. m. and hot meal was given men at 8:30 p. m.

Battalion remained in place in this camp, cleaning up and resting until morning of 25th.

The battalion marched at 5:45 a. m. October 25th to Somme-Suippes where Battalion embussed and departed at 8:45 a. m. arriving at Les Islettes at 1:00 p. m. Disembarked and marched four kilometers to Camp Lochere in Argonne Forest. Bivouacked for

night.

October 26th companies were paid by Regimental Paymaster and marched at 4:00 p. m. in accordance with the following order:

"Headquarters, Sixth Regiment,
Marine Corps, Am. E. F.
France, 26 October, 1918.

Field Orders No. 20.

1. In accordance with Field Orders No. 31, Hdq. 4th Brigade, 26 Oct., 1918, this regiment will march to the woods on the left of the Exermont-Chaudron Farm road in the square whose co-ordinates are 01-80, 02-80, 01-79, 02-79 and will take station in this woods in the following order:

1st Bn. in northern part.
3rd Bn. in the central part.
2nd Bn. in the southern part.

2. The Regiment will march as follows:

(a) Route of March for troops and machine guns:

Chemin-Romaine-Tranche running north through Foret-de-Argonne-Varennes north to National Route—200 yards along that route north to Charpentry-Baulny and north to destination.

The above route will be followed except where impossible.

(b) Route of March for Trains:

Trains will march via routes which were found by reconnaissance parties despatched 25 October to be most practicable, keeping as near as possible to the prescribed route of troops and clear of guarded roads.

(c) Order of March:

1st Bn., 3rd Bn. 2nd Bn.

The Hdq. Co. will follow the 2nd Bn. and the Supply Co. the 3rd Bn.

The leading element will march at 1:30 p. m., this date and unit commanders will be responsible for appropriate distances between units.

Trains will follow their respective organizations.

Major Shuler will send one guide each to the 1st and 2nd Bns.

(d) The road will be kept clear for the passing through of the 5th Regiment.

(e) The strictest road discipline will be observed and the usual open march formation will be taken. The head of the column will not debouch from the forest to the S. E. of Varennes until dusk or such time as the movements of troops will be secure from aerial observation.

3. (a) Ration distributing point from 12:45 p. m. 27 Oct., 1918, Baulny.

(b) Advanced S. A. A. dump (including 1 lb., Stokes Mortar, hand and rifle grenades) at Western exit of Exermont from evening of 26 October, '18. Provisions must be made for issuing two rifle and two hand grenades to each man.

4. P. C. of this regiment will be at Chaudron Farm.

5. Rear echelon of this regiment will be at the present location of the regimental P. C. Company. Clerks will be sent to report to the Regimental Personnel Officer at this point, this date.

By order of Colonel Lee:
Pere Wilmer, Maj. Marine Corps, Adj."

After a very difficult march, over rough roads and through deep mud battalion arrived in position

ordered at 3:00 a. m., October 27th and bivouacked. Train arrived at 5:30 a. m. and breakfast was served to men at 10:00 a. m. Battalion remained in this position until October 30th.

On October 28th Major Fagan, with one officer and one NCO. from each company and two of the Battalion Scouts reconnoitered the support position that this battalion was to take up, relieving 42nd Division.

During stay in this position all men were provided with 220 rounds of rifle ammunition, two hand grenades and two rifle grenades each and two days' reserve rations.

October 30th Major General Summerall, Commanding 5th Army Corps, accompanied by Major General LeJeune, spoke to the Battalion for a few minutes on the purpose and importance of the impending attack.

Battalion marched at 6:00 p. m., October 30, by companies, to support position, relieving battalion of the 166th Infantry. 15th machine gun company reported.

The following order was received at 6:00 p. m., October 31st:

"Headquarters, Sixth Regiment,
Marine Corps, A. E. F.
France, 31 October, 1918.

Field Orders No. 23.

1. Battalions will move to suitable covered positions so as to be ready to attack tomorrow morning, November 1st. This movement may commence at once and must be completed by 2:30 a. m.

2. At once on arrival in this position battalion commander will send to the Regimental P. C. a re-

port of their exact location and a statement that they are ready to attack. Battalion signal personnel will establish phone connections at these "jump off" positions.

3. "H" hour will be communicated to organizations as soon as known.

4. Just before leaving their present positions for the "jump off" positions, each battalion commander will telephone to the Regimental P. C. the code word Paris.

H. Lee,
Colonel, U. S. M. C., Commanding."

In accordance with the above order companies moved out on previously reconnoitered routes to their "jump off" positions. Battalion headquarters remained in place until word was received that all companies were in position, at midnight.

The following Field Order giving zero day and hour was received at 9:00 p. m.

Headquarter Sixth Regiment,
Marine Corps, Am. E. F.
France, 31 Oct. 18.

Field Order No. 24.—8:40 p. m.

1. There is no change in the information of the enemy and our own troops.

2. This regiment forms for attack.

3. (a) The battalions and liaison groups will move into position by 2 hours (2:00 a. m.) November 1st, 1918, to carry out the missions assigned them by Field Orders No. 49 Hq. 2nd Div., dated 31 Oct. 1918 at 7:00 hours.

(b) All elements of the 2nd Bn. 156th Inf. must be in rear of the line of departure of this regiment by three hours (3:00 a. m.) November 1st, 1918.

(c) "D" day—November 1, 1918.
"H" hour—Five thirty hours (5:30 a. m.)

4. (a) Liaison—No change.

(b) Administrative arrangements—No change.

(c) M. P. will take over prisoners of war north of Sommerance on the Sommerance-Landres-et-St Georges road.

5. P. C. of this regiment—No change.

H. Lee, Col. U. S. M. C., Comdg.

During the night of October 31-November 1, this battalion moved into its jumping off position Northeast of Sommerance, from whence it moved out at 5:30 a. m. in support of the First Battalion and continued its advance until 8:00 a. m. when it passed through First Battalion and halted at the first objective. At 8:14 a. m. the following message was sent:

"From: Commanding Officer Third Battalion.
To. Commanding Officer Sixth Regiment.
My two leading companies are on first objective, following companies on ridge in position to advance at proper time. Few casualties. Barker is near me. Have met two companies of Williams back of St. Georges. Made good time since last message.

G. K. Shuler, Major, U. S. M. C."

At 9:00 a. m. it took up the advance as the leading battalion closely following our own barrage, until the second objective was reached at 12:30 p. m. where the battalion dug in and the Second and First battalions passed thru and continued the advance. At 11:00 a. m. the following message was sent:

"From: Commanding Officer Third Battalion.
To: Commanding Officer Sixth Regiment.

We are in Chennery and Bayonville and passing up to 2nd objective. Took about 100 prisoners here by using tank assisted by riflemen. About 100 enemy retreated from their guns to woods southeast of Sivry. The woods north of 2nd objective should be well shelled. Have taken 6 88s. Scouts just reported that we hold Chenery and Bayonville. Enemy are shelling from woods north of Bayonville.

G. K. Shuler, Major, U. S. M. C."

Our P. C. was established in Bayonville. The following prisoners and materials were captured by this battalion during its advance:*

| | |
|---|---|
| Prisoners | 250 |
| Cannon | 27 (including one 8 inch gun) |
| Machine Guns | 30 |
| Rifles | 100 |
| Horses | 12 |
| Ambulances | 3 |
| Signal Outfit | .. |
| Ammunition | .. |
| Dynamo | .. |

The following losses were sustained:†

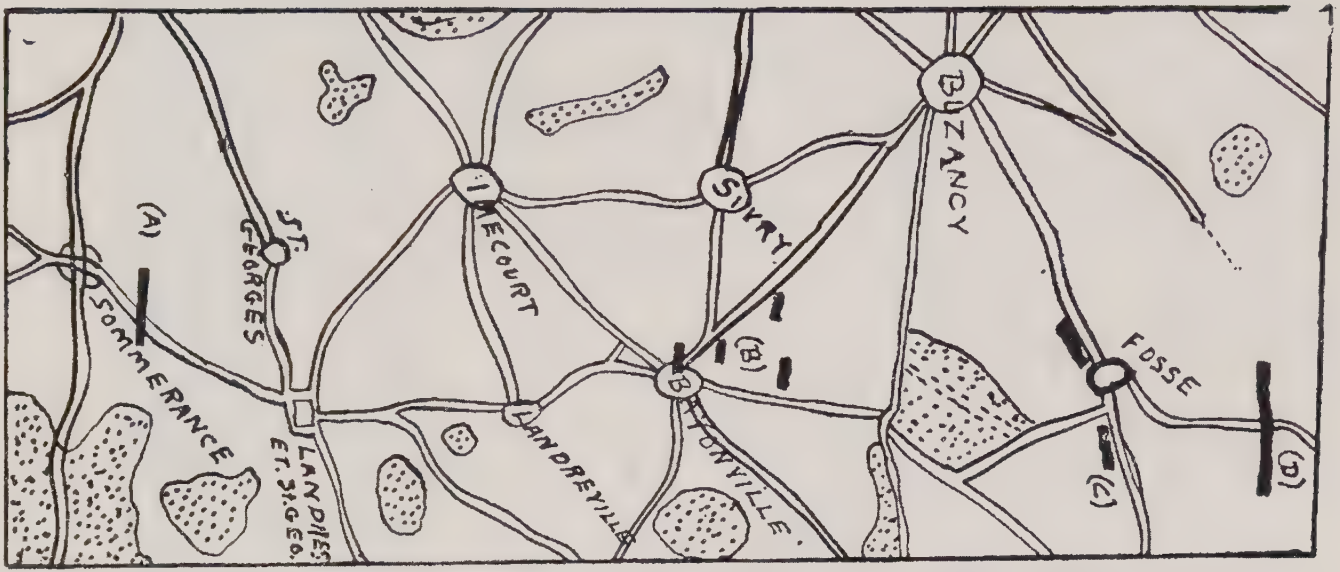
| | Officers | Men |
|---|---|---|
| Killed | 0 | 21 |
| Wounded | 2 | 57 |
| Missing | 2 | 12 |

Three tanks reported after the first objective had been obtained and were assigned to the 83rd Company and placed under the command of Captain Noble. These tanks moved forward when we ad-

*Estimated by company commanders.
†Taken from company reports at the time.

vanced and kept up with the leading elements. Upon reaching the outskirts of Chennery and while under cover of the crest of a hill it was found possible to maneuver the 83rd Company and tanks to flank a battery of four enemy 77mm guns. This battery was firing direct fire into the left of our sector and was taken completely by surprise from their left flank. One tank approached and covered the advance of a squad of riflemen and skillful use of its one-pounder and riflemens' weapons compelled the surrender of one officer and 75 artillerymen, who were manning the battery. As a result of this operation over 200 of the enemy from different points of the ravine were observed retreating on the run to the woods Northeast of Sivry. The three tanks upon the attainment of the second objective went forward with the Second Battalion when that battalion passed through. The work of the tanks was most commendable. The officers in charge co-operated in every way possible.

It is desired to make special mention of the matter in which Bayonville was taken and organized. Capt. Noble of the 83rd Company cleaned the town thoroughly of the enemy. He was able to do this because of the thorough manner in which his preparation had been made. By a careful study of maps of the town and by assignment of units to do certain work the capture of the town was affected in a systematic and business like manner. With no losses in his Company 100 prisoners were taken and the town taken.




Map 5—Sommerance, Bayonville, Fosse; (Meuse-Argonne Sector) (A)—Jump-off, 5:30 a. m. 1 Nov. 1918 (B)—Position 11 a. m. 1 Nov. 1918 (C)—Position 11 a. m. 3 Nov. 1918.

Captain Jacobsen and 84th Company following the 83rd were assigned the task of cleaning up and holding the town. This was done thoroughly and systematically. Before the arrival of Battalion Headquarters Captain Jacobsen had organized an evacuation hospital under charge of Major Schultz of the German Medical Corps; had three German ambulances in operation and was caring for and evacuating both our own and German wounded. Patrols were mounted on captured German horses and doing effective work between the front line and rear. All dugouts had been located so that upon arrival of the various Hdq. all units were properly housed without confusion. The efforts of Captain Jacobsen in this town which was constantly under shell fire were most commendable.

The rolling kitchens arrived in Bayonville at 10:30 a. m., November 2, and went to the positions near their respective companies.

The following orders were received at 3:00 a. m. November 3rd.

"The 4th Brigade will continue its advance in accordance with Field Orders No. 53, 2nd Division, 2nd Nov., 1918. The 3rd Brigade takes up the advance at 6:00 a. m. 3rd November, 1918, from line of exploitation.

The Brigade will advance in line of Regiments, 5th Marines on right and 6th Marines on left. The 4th Machine Gun Battalion attached, will take positions in the march column about one kilometer in rear of the rear battalion 6th Regiment.

Right and left combat liaison forces will continue to operate as directed in Field Orders No. 36, 4th Brigade, 2nd November, 1918, until further orders.

Ration distribution point the same.

Rolling kitchens, water carts, etc., and combat trains will move forward with troops as directed by organization Commanders.

P. C. 4th Brigade remains in place.

By command of Brigadier General Neville:

Earl H. Ellis, Lt. Col., U. S. M. C., Adj.

Note—The 6th Regiment moves forward at 6:00 a. m., following the 23rd Inf. Details as given in "Warning" issued from these Hdq. 10:45 p. m., 2 November, 1918. H. Lee,

Colonel, U. S. M. C."

Received 1:00 a. m. 3rd Nov.

"Warning:

The 3rd Brigade will move tonight, 2-3 November, 1918, to the heights beyond the exploitation line, organizing there prepared for forward movement. The 23rd Inf. will advance through this regiment in its present position. It is understood that they will pass in column formation (not affecting a regular passage of lines nor in any manner a relief).

The 2nd Bn. (Williams) will establish liaison with the rear elements of the 23rd Inf. by means of a group of one officer and four runners. The 1st Bn. (Barker) will establish similar liaison with our First battalion. This liaison is established in order that early word of any forward movement of the 23rd Inf. may be had with least practicable delay.

In case the 23rd Inf. should make a forward movement, this regiment will follow in support of them at 1,000 yards distance. If for combat, it will move in three lines, present order of battalions. If for pursuit, in the best formation adapted to security,

maintaining the liaison with elements ahead. The left liaison group, Major Stowell, will in case of any forward movement, operate as combat liaison between the leading element of this regiment and the 80th Division on our left.

All auxiliary troops will march as now attached.

All troops will be prepared to move at daylight. Rolling kitchens, water and ration carts will accompany their organizations. Other elements of the regiment's train (B & R) wagons, combat wagons, etc., will be organized by the Supply Officer and follow the rear elements at 2 kilometers.

All assigned mounts will be sent to this P. C. by daybreak, morning of 3 November, 1918.

Organization commanders will inform these headquarters as to the number of reserve rations required. Supply Officer will inform to the number of reserve rations available.

If forward movement is taken up, this P. C. will be with the rear element of the 3rd Btn.

LEE."

In accordance with the above orders this Battalion moved into position just Southeast of Fosse, one kilometer in rear of the First Battalion, arriving at 11:00 a. m., November 3rd.

At 11:00 a. m. the following message was sent:

"From: Commanding Officer Third Battalion.
To: Commanding Officer Sixth Regiment.

Position sketch submitted. 1st Battalion 6th Regiment 1 kilometer west of my front. Fosse is being shelled. Wounded from 23rd say they are several kilometers north of Fosse.

G. K. Shuler, Major, U. S. M. C."

Rolling kitchens accompanied their companies and served hot meals in the afternoon.

At 11:00 a. m. November 4, in accordance with verbal orders from Regl. Comdr. the battalion moved, following the advance of the First battalion, to position one kilometer North of Fosse. Battalion P. C. and kitchens remained in position; hot meal sent to all companies at 2:00 p. m.

The following order was received at 2:00 p. m., November 4th:

"Fourth Brigade will occupy the right subsector of the 2nd Division in accordance with Operation Memorandum, 2nd Division, 4 November, time, 10:45 a. m. and Memorandum No. 29, Headquarters 4th Brigade, 4 November, 18 time, 11:30 a. m. both memos herewith.

In accordance with paragraph 2 (b) Memorandum 4th Brigade, the 2nd Battalion (Maj. Williams) will advance to the new subsector via the road Fosse-La Forge Fme to the crossroads about 350 yards southeast of the farm thence northeast along the woods road to point 6333, then northeast to the ridge about 1,000 yards, holding a line running northwest-southeast from 7038 to 7830.

The 1st Battalion (Berry) will move along the Fosse-Belval road to Harbeaumont fme at 4406, thence northeast along the woods road to a position along the line 6333 to 6921.

The 3rd Battalion (Shuler) from Cote Jean by same road as 1st Battalion to a position along the line from 6017 to 7011.

Each organization will have its rolling kitchens, water and ration carts accompany it to a point from which the ration carts may supply their companies with cooked food.

The 5th Regiment will occupy the forward part of our subsector, this Regiment serving as their sup-

port. The rear battalion of the 5th Regiment should rest about 1,000 meters northeast of the ridge occupied by our first line Battalion (Williams). Major Williams will exchange with the rear battalion of the 5th regiment a liaison group sufficient to guarantee the transmission of messages and information between the regiments. The 2nd and 3rd line battalions will by similar means relay messages from head to rear and reverse.

The combat liaison detachment (Major Stowell) which has been maintained between this Brigade and the 80th Division on our left, will move to LaForge fme and keep liaison with the 80th Division until liaison has been established between that Division and the 3rd Brigade. When this has been effected by the 3rd Brigade our liaison detachment will rejoin its battalion on its new position. Major Stowell will then relieve Major Berry of command of the 1st Battalion and Major Berry will report to the commanding officer, 3rd Battalion, for duty.

In moving to position battalions will take up such formation as to insure security on the march. It is reported that artillery and machine guns of the enemy remain in the woods through which the march is to be made. Efforts should be made to complete the movement before dark.

Each battalion will endeavor by means of patrols to establish liaison with the elements of the 89th Division opposite them on our right.

Sketch of positions will be sent by each battalion to the P. C. of the regiment as soon as practicable after taking position as prescribed above.

All transportation not enumerated above will constitute the regimental train under command of Captain Patchen, who will locate with it at Nouart.

This P. C. within a few hours will be moved to Belval."

In accordance with above orders the battalion moved from above position at 4:00 p. m. arriving at 7:50 p. m. in position in Bois de Belval, along line from 6017 to 7011. At 7:50 p. m. the following message was sent:

"From: Commanding Officer Third Battalion.
To: Regt. Commander Sixth Regiment.

Position sketch submitted. Have sent patrol to locate any of 89th on right, 3rd Battalion 5th (front line Battalion) just passed through going northwest. Got word from Berry this p. m. that he was moving forward so I left. I got word from him on the way that he was ordered to stay where he was. At this time I was within 1 kilometer of my place so came on. G. K. Shuler, Major U. S. M. C.

Ration carts arrived with hot meals at 10:30 p. m. and the kitchens arrived next morning in time to serve noon meal.

The battalion remained in this position until 1:30 p. m., November 7th, when in accordance with Regimental Field Orders No. 27 as modified by Operation Memorandum 10:50 a. m., November 7th, it moved to position in Northwest corner of Bois du Four, arriving at 4:50 p. m. The kitchens arrived at 10:00 a. m. next morning.

In accordance with Regimental orders the Battalion C. O. went to Regimental P. C. for the night, November 8th and the battalion under the command of Major Berry moved into position two kilometers south of La Thibaudine Farm, arriving at 10:00 p. m., November 8th. Kitchens arrived at 8:30 a. m.

the following morning. Hot meals were served this day and battalion rested until midnight. Regimental runner with orders for further movement became lost and did not locate battalion until 10:30 p. m. 8th. Major Shuler, who returned to battalion about 1:00 p. m., sent Lieut. Minter on horseback to Regimental Headquarters about 10:00 p. m. to report the non-arrival of expected orders for movement. As Regimental runner had left Regimental Headquarters at 6:00 p. m. with the order for movement to the Bois de L'Hospice, Major Shuler delayed movement until the return of Lieut. Minter at 11:30 p. m. to avoid any possibility of change of orders since runner started. Immediately upon the return of Lieut. Minter the order for movement was given and battalion marched to Bois de L'Hospice two kilometers east of Yoncq, at 2:30 a. m., November 9th.

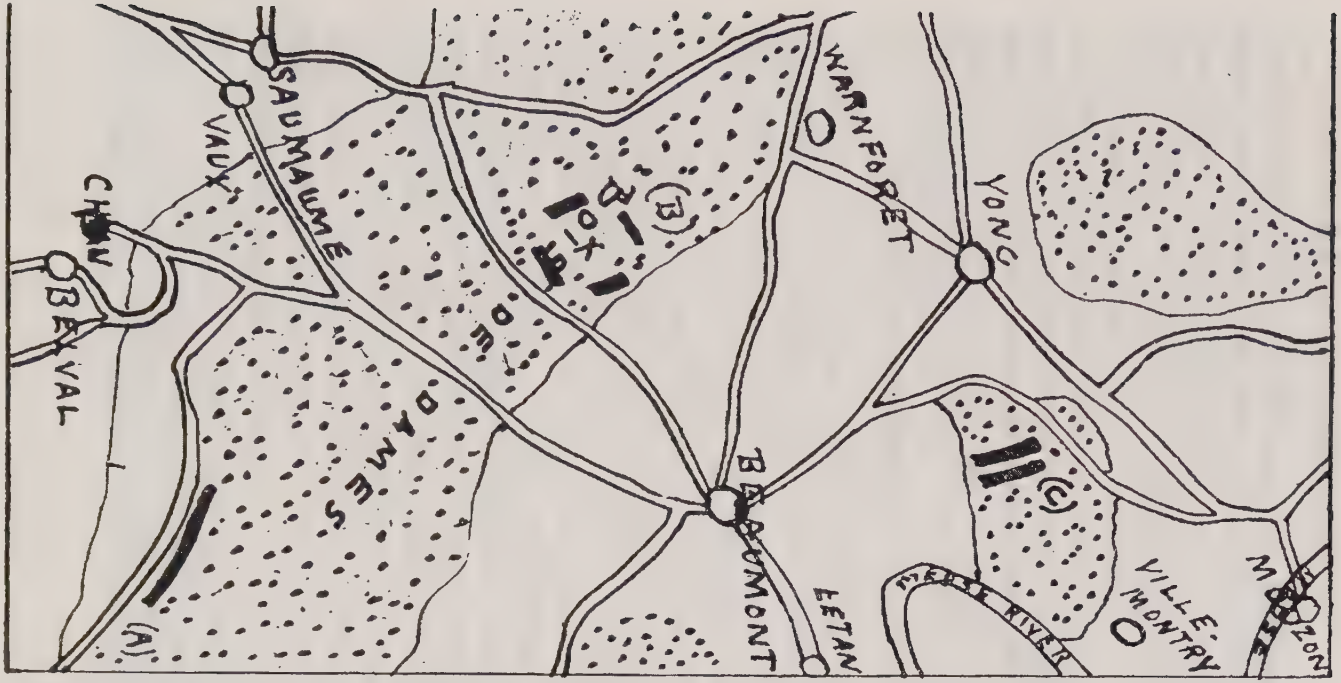
Major Berry and one officer from each company were sent on reconnaissance trip to banks of Meuse, leaving at 5:00 a. m. and returning late in the morning. Here the battalion remained until the evening of the 10th. Ration carts made two trips each day with hot heals and spirits of both officers and men arose with the prospect of the armistice.

At 4:00 p. m., November 10th, the day preceding the armistice, the battalion commander was called to Regimental Headquarters and given instructions for the crossing of the Meuse and attack on the heights on the east bank that night. He returned at 7:20 p. m. and immediately called the Company Commanders for a short conference. As there was

only one map each company commander had to be taken into camouflaged tent and shown by the light of a candle the route to be taken and the objectives. Meanwhile the companies were preparing to march and at 8:00 p. m. we moved out, marching rapidly in column of file. After fast marching of two and a half hours battalion arrived at point on railway 304.7-316.7. Lieutenant Slade, of the 2nd Engineers reported that one pontoon bridge had been carried from that point to the river at nine o'clock and that he was waiting for report from another engineer officer on the water front as to whether the bridge was ready to be thrown across the Meuse. Lieut. Slade was told that it would be absolutely necessary to put two bridges across in order to effect a crossing and that every assistance possible would be given him. A runner was sent to river bank but at midnight he had not returned and the following message was sent:

"From: C. O. 3rd Btn.
To: C. O. 6th Regt.

Arrived at this point at 10:30 p. m. Was held up over half hour because of heavy shelling of Pourron. Was compelled to go around. Met guides at proper place. Stowell and Larson not here yet. Metcalf here. Engineer Officer, Lieut. Slade, had one pontoon carried to river at 9:00 p. m. The Officer with it was to report to Slade when he was ready to put bridge over. He has not reported and I have had Slade send a runner down to find out the reason for the delay. This runner has not returned. There is considerable machine gun fire on river front. Slade says when the bridge was taken




Map 6—Belval, Beaumont, Villemontry; (Meuse-Argonne Sector) (A)—Position 7:50 p. m. 4 Nov. 1918 (B)—Position 4:50 p. m. 7 Nov. 1918 (C)—Position 2:30 a. m. 9 Nov. 1918 to 8 p. m. 10 Nov. and from 6:30 a. m. 11 Nov. 1918 until after armistice was signed.

down at 9:00 p. m. this fire started. He thinks the enemy have guns opposite the place his men are on river front. He suggests that he put one bridge over and start one battalion and then put the second one over. I have told him that we want both to go over at the same time. This is the only way to do now that we know the enemy are opposite and on the alert. As soon as Stowell and Larson come up with their battalion and Slade gets his report that they are ready we will go across and do our best. I will let Slade have 40 men to carry the second pontoon to river.

G. K. Shuler, Major, U. S. M. C.

At 12:05 a. m. a report was received that the First Battalion of 6th Regiment and Third Battalion 5th Regiment had arrived and were in rear of troops already in place. At the same time the Engineer Officer reported from the river front that he could throw across one bridge when we were ready. Lieut. Slade stated that with forty men in addition to his own attachment, he could carry to the river and place across a second bridge. Forty men—twenty from 3rd and twenty from the 1st Battalion, were placed at his disposal. The Battalion Scout Officer accompanied Lieut. Slade to the river front and returned and reported at 2:15 that it would be 4:00 a. m. at least before the engineers would have two pontoon bridges ready to throw across the river. At 3:00 a. m. the following message was sent:

"From: Commanding Officer Third Battalion.
To: Commanding Officer Sixth Regiment.

Pontoons are not ready yet. If not ready so we can cross at 4 a. m. will be obliged to call it off.

Too near daylight to do the work without artillery. It will take at least an hour to cross pontoons. We will, if we leave here, go first woods and bivouac. Larson came in just after I sent last message.

G. K. Shuler, Major, U. S. M. C.

It was decided that if bridges were not ready so that troops could be marched across and on East bank of Meuse by 5:00 a. m., not to attempt a crossing. At 4:00 a. m., no report having been received that the bridges were ready the orders were given for the battalions of the Sixth Regiment and Third Battalion of Fifth to return to Bois de L'Hospice, arriving there at 6:30 a. m., November 11th.

"From Brigadier General Neville, Comdg. 4th Brig.
At: P. C.
To: C. O. 6th Marines.

The following telephone message received from Surprise One, 6:35 a. m. this morning, forwarded for compliance: '8:30 a. m. Fifth Corps—Armistice signed and takes effect at 11:00 a. m. this morning. Accurate map showing locations of front line elements including patrols and detachments will be sent to these headquarters without delay'—Neville.

For your information and compliance as regards location of your organization."

Battalion remained in place in Bois de L'Hospice until 10:00 a. m., November 13th, when it marched by companies to Le Faubourg and Villemontry in accordance with the following order:

"Headquarters, Sixth Regiment,
Marine Corps, Am. E. F.,
France, 13 November, 1918.

FIELD ORDER
No. 28.

1. You will move in accordance with Brigade Field Order No. 63. The 3rd Battalion will move two (2) companies to Villemontry. The other two companies to Le Faubourg, for billets, relieving elements of the 23rd Infantry located in these towns. The relief is effective at noon this date. Have your rolling kitchens, ration and water carts proceed immediately and move your troops as quickly as possible in order to effect relief on time. The 1st Battalion will remain in its present position.

2. This P. C. will move either to Villemontry or Bivodeau Fme.

Lee."

Eighty-Third and 97th Companies billeted at Villemontry. Battalion Headquarters, 82nd and 84th companies billeted at Le Faubourg de Mouzon, relieving elements of 23rd Infantry.

At 1:00 p. m., November 14th battalion headquarters, 82nd and 84th companies marched to Villemontry having been relieved by the 1st Battalion, 308th Infantry. Officers' baggage and men's packs were brought up from Chaudron Farm and Sommerance by trucks and distributed November 14th. Battalion remained at Villemontry until 5:00 a. m., November 17th and considerable new clothing was issued, including leather jerkins and overcoats. No shoes were received although badly needed.

## MARCH TO THE RHINE

At 9:15 p. m., November 16th the following order was received:

"Headquarters Sixth Regiment,
Marine Corps, A. E. F.
France, 16 November, 1918.

FIELD ORDERS
No. 29.

1. In order to follow the Fifth Regiment who clear Pouilly with their advance guard at 5:30 a. m. tomorrow 17th instant, it will be necessary for the train of the Third Battalion to leave Villemontry at 4:00 a. m. The train of the 1st and 2nd Battalions should leave Bois du Fond de Limon at 5:00 a. m. The 3rd Battalion will march at 5:00 a. m. via the bridge opposite. Villemontry, thence South along the road on west edge of the Bois des Flavieres-Almagisors, thence eastward along the road to the latter woods, thence south along the farm Vigneron-Pouilly road to Pouilly. The 1st and 2nd Battalions will march from Villemontry in rear of the 3rd Battalion. Its train will follow the train of the 3rd Battalion. The Supply Company will leave Beaumont in time to arrive at Pouilly and follow in rear of the Headquarters Company at 7:00 a. m., from that place. The Machine Gun Companies will follow battalions to which attached.

2. It will be absolutely necessary to leave promptly on the hours indicated in order to properly join the column. If the battalion and company desks, typewriters, etc. are not delivered to organizations tonight, they will be picked up by the train at Pouilly.

H. Lee, Colonel, USMC., Commanding."

In accordance with the above order, at 5:00 a. m., November 17th, the battalion began its movement toward the Rhine, crossing the Meuse on pontoon bridge at Villemontry and joining Brigade column as the last battalion in line at Pouilly. This regiment halted for the night at Laferte, arriving there at 2:00 p. m. (Field orders-Brigade No. 42, Regimental No. 29).

The following morning (November 18) at 8:00 a. m. the march was resumed, this battalion being again last in Brigade column. Battalion arrived at La Hage, Belgium at 5:00 p. m., having crossed the Belgian border at Villers at 10:50 a. m. A delegation from the town of La Hage met the battalion at Belle Fontaine and escorted the column with music and banners to billets at La Hage. A great reception was given the troops throughout the day's march. Flags and fireworks were in evidence everywhere. Battalion remained in this place 36 hours. The march was resumed at 5:30 a. m., November 20th. The Sixth Regiment was assigned as the advance guard and this battalion detailed as the main body of the advance regiment but, due to the failure of the 1st Battalion to arrive at the appointed time at the rendezvous given, Major Shuler received verbal orders from the Regimental Commander at 9:00 a. m. to take up the flank guard with two companies on the right flank and two companies on the left flank. Battalion Headquarters and the 82nd and 84th Companies took up the right flank guard and the 83rd and 97th companies covered the left flank. Battalion

Headquarters and 84th Company joined the 83rd and 97th Companies for billets at Bonnert, the 82nd Company going to Frassem for billets. (Field orders, Brigade No. 46, Regimental No. 30).

At 7:30 the next morning the march was resumed, this battalion again being assigned to flank guard. The 83rd and 97th marched as left flank while the battalion headquarters and 84th company marched to Frassem and, together with 82nd company, made up the right flank guard. The 83rd and 97th Companies arrived at Schandel, Luxembourg, at 1:00 p. m. and billeted there, being joined at 3:00 p. m. by Battalion Headquarters and the 84th Company, the 82nd having billeted at Bowingen, as liaison with 3rd Brigade. (Field orders, Division No. 70, Regimental No. 31).

During the night 330 replacements arrived and were bivouacked and fed.

At 6:45 a. m., November 22nd the march was resumed, this battalion, less one company, being the reserve of the advance guard. The 82nd Company was detailed as right flank guard and proceeded to Schrondweiler independently. The remainder of the battalion left the regimental column at Colmar-Berg and proceeded to Cruchten for billet, arriving at 11:30 a. m. Here the replacements who had been marching as a separate company were distributed among the four companies of the battalion; and Lieut. Conahan, who had reported the previous night, was assigned to 82nd Company. (Field orders, Regimental No. 32).

The march was resumed at 7:00 a. m. the 23rd with the Sixth Regiment as advance guard and this battalion vanguard of the advance guard. The 84th Company halted for billet at Beforthaide at 1:00 p. m., the remainder of the Battalion arriving at Dillingen, on the Sauer river (German border) at 3:00 p. m., where two companies were billeted and one (97) bivouacked. (Field orders, Brigade No. 49, Regimental No. 32).

There being an insufficient number of billets in town the 83rd and 97th companies were moved Nov. 25th, to Beforthaide for billet. November 24th the Regimental signal men, one Stokes Mortar and crew and one one-pounder and crew reported. The sector and bridgehead were organized for defense. The 15th machine gun company reported and was billeted in farm one kilometer south of Dillingen. Twelve machine guns were placed at advantageous points covering bridge approaches and possible landing points on river. One-pounder and Stokes Mortars were placed in position to shell bridge. Strong outposts and patrols were placed along Sauer river covering front assigned to this battalion. A drill schedule was followed while in this area and between 9:00 p. m. and 4:00 a. m. the night of November 30-December 1, some clothing and equipment were issued. Shoes were received but not enough of each size to equip men. When march was resumed some fifty men marched with their feet on the ground.

At 8:15 a. m., December 1, the battalion resumed its march, crossing the Sauer river into Germany at

the Wallendorf bridge at 9:15 a. m. as the last battalion in the Brigade column. Battalion split at Neuerburg, the 82nd and 84th companies and 15th machine gun company going to Scheuren for billets and the Battalion Headquarters and 83rd and 97th companies going to Plascheid for billets. (Field Orders. Division No. 30, Brigade No. 30, Regimental No. 33).

The next morning the march was resumed at 6:30, the 82nd and 84th companies joining column on the Neuerburg-Waxweiler road, this battation being again last in brigade column. Battalion left column at Waxweiler and proceeded to Lambertsburg, and Grimelscheid for billets. 83rd and 97th companies were billeted at Lambertsburg at 1:00 p. m. and the 82nd and 84th companies and the 15th machine gun company billeted in Greimelscheid with Battalion Headquarters. (Regimental Operations Memorandum No. 1).

At 5:30 a. m., December 3rd battalion marched to join column at Waxweiler as last battalion in brigade column. Battalion left Regimental column at Prum and arrived at Giesdorf for billet at 3:00 p. m. (Regimental Field Order No. 33).

The Division remained in place December 4th but this battalion, in accordance with Regimental Operations Memorandum No. 2, marched independently to Duppach, leaving Giesdorf at 7:00 a. m. and arriving at Duppach at 1:00 p. m. where battalion was billeted.

At 7:00 a. m., December 5th the battalion again marched independently, arriving at Hillesheim at 12:30 p. m., the remainder of the Division being halted. (Brigade Field Order No. 53.)—These independent moves were made in order to get into position to march eastward on the left flank of the divisional zone when the Division resumed its march December 6th.

At 7:30 a. m., December 6th this battalion, with Company "D" of the 2nd Engineers and the 15th machine gun company, marched as vanguard of the leading regiment, arriving at Ahrhutte at 1:00 p. m. where the 83rd and 84th companies, the 15th machine gun company and the Battalion train were billeted. The Battalion Headquarters and the 82nd and 97th Companies continued the march to Udelhoven where they were billeted together with Company "D" of the 2nd Engineers. (Regimental Field Order No. 34).

The march was resumed at 7:00 a. m., December 7th, the battalion assembling on the main road at Ahrdorf and again marching as vanguard. Insull was reached at 2:00 p. m. and this battalion (less one company), Company "D" Engineers and Troop "L", 2nd Cavalry billeted. The 97th Company continued the march to Dumpelfeld where it billeted as outpost company. Divisional Field Order No. 78. Regimental Field Order No. 35).

The following morning (December 8th) the march was resumed on the river road at 7:00 a. m. This battalion with the 15th machine gun company and

Company "D" 2nd Engineers, attached, continued to lead the Brigade column until it reached the Rhine. Battalion reached Neunahr at 4:00 p. m. where entire battalion was billeted.

At 6:45 a. m., December 9th the march was resumed and continued to Brohl-on-the-Rhine which was reached at 12:00 noon. Battalion billeted here and remained until 5:00 a. m., December 13th, when it marched up the Rhine to Andernach and crossed on the Andernach-Leutesdorf Ferry, billeting in Leutesdorf. The battalion train, which was ordered to proceed north to Remagen and cross on the bridge did not arrive until 2:00 a. m., December 14th.

At Leutesdorf, Battalion took up regular program of training and December 31st found it still in place.

The seven and a half months of 1919 that were spent on the Rhine were without unusual activity. A training schedule varying from open warfare maneuvers and demonstrations to rifle practice and close order drill was carried on throughout this period. There were several Divisional Reviews held on the heights of Vallendar and Gladbach. This battalion participated in ceremonies reviewed by General Pershing, Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels, Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Benson, besides two decoration ceremonies on its own drill grounds reviewed by the Division Commander. At these ceremonies decorations were given to men for gallantry in action on all the fronts from the Chateau Thierry salient to the Argonne. The Regimental colors were decorated three times with the Croix de Guerre with

palm, and had the battle ribbons for all the fronts put on.

In early February four officers and two hundred men from the battalion were detached for service with the 2nd Engineers, who were constructing barracks, mess halls and corrals all over the Divisional area. Two officers were sent to the 17th Field Artillery and two to the 23rd Infantry. Up to this time the battalion had been about 200 men and 15 officers over-strength, due to the returning casuals, both sick and wounded.

On April 23rd the Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Company moved to Honningen to take the billets vacated by the 12th Field Artillery, leaving this battalion the entire town of Leutesdorf for billet. The Battalion Headquarters was moved to the Marienburg estate, the 83rd company moved its office to the Masberg Hotel and took over the Rheinstrasse billets vacated by battalion headquarters personnel. Adjustments of billeting areas by the other companies to conform to this movement added greatly to the comfort of the men.

Orders were received early in June for all units of the 2nd Division to be ready to march on a twelve hour notice. Combat allowance of ammunition was kept ready for loading, the animals were brought into the best possible condition, practice marches were held for the hardening of the men and everything put in readiness for a march eastward should the Germans show the slightest indication of a refusal to sign the peace terms.

At 9:00 p. m., June 17th telephonic orders were received from the Regimental Commander to prepare to move at once. Later orders indicated that there would be no move before morning but the night was spent in preparing for the march. Company Commanders were called to Battalion Headquarters for a conference and the plan of movement laid before them. Excess baggage and equipment was packed B. & R. wagons reporting to all companies to it was to be left under guard. Men's baggage was reduced to what they could carry in their packs, haul excess to the 82nd Company mess hall where officers stored everything but small bedding or clothing rolls and every effort was made to prepare the command for anything that might come. The B. & R. wagons, after hauling excess baggage to the storage point were sent to the company store-rooms and offices and loaded with ammunition, reserve and field rations and officers' baggage.

Orders were received during the morning that this battalion would march at 11:00 a. m. and clear the town before the arrival of the remainder of the Regiment. Forming on Rheinstrasse at 10:45 a. m. the battalion marched promptly at eleven followed by its train and, at a distance, by the other battalions. A halt was made near Segendorf for one hour at noon and a hot meal served. Battalion marched again at 1:00 p. m. and despite the fact that men had been up nearly all night preparing for the move the march continued in good time and Hardert, the town selected for billet, was reached about 4:00 p.

m. Although the town was very small all the officers and about 90 per cent of the men were billeted, the remainder bivouacking in the neighboring fields.

The Regimental Headquarters was located at Rengsdorf, three kilometers away, and the Battalion Adjutant was sent there in the side-car to get the preliminary order for the morrow's movement. This preliminary order was confirmed by the receipt of complete orders at 11:00 p. m. requiring this battalion to join Regimental column two kilometers away at 7:30 a. m. the following day. Reveille was set for 4:45 and the battalion arrived at the meeting point in ample time to take its place in the column between the 2nd and first battalions. Four trucks reported at Hardert at 6:00 a. m. and were assigned to the four companies to carry the men's packs. The entire Regiment marched in combat packs and much better marching time was made than on the previous day, the head of the regiment arriving in Herschbach, near the bridgehead perimeter, at 3:00 p. m. As there was only billeting space for one battalion in the town, the 2nd battalion was billeted and the remainder of the Regiment bivouacked in the fields at the edge of town.

The Regiment remained here until PEACE was signed at 3:14 p. m. June 28th. A program of close order, practice marches and ceremonies was held here, the large space available for drill grounds making it practicable for the entire Regiment to drill together. The band played on the field for an hour every morning in order to give the troops practice

in marching to music and in addition a Regimental parade was held every afternoon that the weather permitted. Frequent rain interfered with the drill program somewhat and made the bivouac rather uncomfortable but everything possible was done to add to the comfort and relieve the monotony of the troops. The Regimental entertainment troupe gave several evenings' entertainment on the field, the band gave nightly concerts and an occasional moving picture or "Y" troupe aided in the entertainment.

Orders were received the evening of the 28th that the Regiment would march the following day, the first unit clearing Herschbach at 7:00 a. m., following the Fifth Regiment which was to return to its former area in one day. The Sixth Regiment divided the return trip into two parts, bivouacking on the Gladbach rifle range the night of the 29th and marching to its area the 30th, this battalion arriving in Leutesdorf at 10:30 a. m., after leaving Gladbach at 7:00 a. m. as the last battalion in the Regimental column.

Upon arrival in Leutesdorf troops immediately returned to billets formerly occupied and the usual activities prevailed again. The training period was almost exclusively devoted to close order and ceremonial drill to prepare for the parades and reviews that were likely to occur in the United States.

All officers and men on detached duty in the Third Army were ordered to rejoin their organizations for preparation to return home. This order brought all our officers and men with the engineers, men from

the Amaroc News (The Third Army Newspaper), the Second Division "Indian" and all other special duty assignments. Colonel Lee received some very fine letters of commendation from the Commanding Officer of the Second Engineers and the various battalion and company commanders for the work performed by the Marines while attached to the Engineer Regiment.

Orders were received July 4th, turning the Division over to the S. O. S. for preparation for return to the United States. Ammunition was turned in July 6th, all excess property was turned in between that date and the 16th, and the command put in the best possible shape for the journey. On July 11th all animals and all of the transportation except the rolling kitchens, were taken to Sinzig and turned in, the rations being delivered by motor truck from thence forth.

At 6:45 a. m., July 19, 1919, the anniversary of the attack of this Regiment near Soissons, the battalion marched out of Leutesdorf to the entraining point at Rheinbrohl where bedsacks were filled with cork shavings, cars loaded and all preparations made for the maximum comfort during the three day journey to Brest.

Leaving Rheinbrohl at 12:08 p. m. the battalion train with Major George A. Stowell in command, moved out, passed through Leutesdorf then south to the Engers bridge, crossed to the yards at Coblenz-Lutzel, was switched to the northbound track and started for Brest. The route taken was the one fol-

lowed by the German army in 1914: Cologne, Aix-la Chapelle, Liege, Namur, Valenciennes, Arras, Albert, Amiens, Rouen; thence via Alencon, Laval, Rennes and Morliaix to Brest.

Arriving at Brest at 7:20 a. m. the 22nd, the Battalion detrained, was met by debarkation officers and guides and conducted to mess halls for breakfast and marched to Camp Pontanezen for billet and preparation for embarkation.

At Pontanezen the Passenger Lists were made up, a final requisition for emergency clothing and equipment was filled, men were deloused, given physical and pack inspection, French money collected and changed for American currency, dogs were deloused and given health certificates and the Battalion pronounced ready to go.

At 6:00 a. m. Sunday, July 27th, the Battalion marched from its billets, followed in column by the Headquarters Company and the 73rd Machine Gun Company, bound for the docks. After being checked through the gates aboard the waiting lighter, we moved out into the harbor, drew alongside the one-stacker, U. S. S. Wilhelmina, and marched the troops aboard. The baggage and troops all loaded, the Wilhelmina weighed anchor at 1:55 p. m. and pushed out into the North Atlantic HOMEWARD BOUND ! ! !

Making an average of about 355 miles per day with only one day of rough sea the Fire Island Light was sighted at 2:51 p. m., August 5th. Ambrose Light was passed at 4:57 p. m. The pilot, bringing

New York newspapers telling of the coming parade, was taken aboard and the Wilhelmina picked her way slowly up Ambrose channel into the North River, where she anchored off Weehawken, N. J., at 7:30 p. m. Reveille was sounded at 4:30 the next morning, breakfast was served at 5 and the troops were ready to disembark when the ship was shoved in alongside pier 15, Hoboken, N. J., at 7:00 a. m. Companies were formed and check roll call held on the pier, then the Battalion marched aboard a ferry boat together with Headquarters Company and the 73rd and was taken down North River, around the point of Manhattan Island through the East River to Long Island City, where we disembarked and boarded Long Island railroad trains for Camp Mills. Troops were given cake, ice cream, oranges, cigarettes, etc., by the Red Cross and other welfare societies, both at the pier and before boarding trains. Arriving at Camp Mills, Battalion was met by guides and taken to barracks. Here men remained until 8:00 p. m., when delousing and inspection began, the companies passing through in numerical order, beginning with the 82nd Company at 8:00 p. m. and ending with the 97th at 2:30 a. m. Officers were given liberty the afternoon of the 6th and 7th. Men were given liberty after delousing and inspection Wednesday night until 9:00 a. m. Thursday and from noon to 9:00 p. m. Thursday.

Friday morning the Battalion left Camp Mills at 11 o'clock for parade in New York. The uniform included combat packs, helmets, blouses and arms

with slickers and mess gear and one cooked meal carried in the pack. Detrained at Long Island City, took ferry to East Tenth street, New York, and then marched, following the First Battalion at 100 yards, west on Tenth street to University Place, south to Ninth street and west to Fifth avenue. The entire Regiment formed in the block on Ninth street between Fourth and Fifth avenues and remained there until the Fifth Regiment cleared Ninth street, marching north on Fifth avenue. The Sixth Regiment then took up the march with the First, Second and Third Battalions, Headquarters, 73rd and Supply Companies in the order named. The formation of each Battalion in line of companies with companies in column of squads (four columns of squads abreast and closed up), distance between platoons was sixteen paces, measured from rear guide of one to leading guide of the next. The parade was reviewed by Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt and Mayor Hyland, of New York. The reviewing stand was erected in front of the New York Public Library at Forty-second street and Fifth avenue. Cheering crowds lined the avenue from Washington Square to 110th street and made the marchers forget that they had walked two miles before starting the parade in addition to five miles at attention in the parade proper. General LeJeune and staff fell out and reviewed the Division at 110th street.

Turning west on 116th street the Fourth Brigade marched to the 129th street ferry slip via St. Nicholas and Manhattan avenue and boarded ferry

boats for Jersey City. As the battalions passed through the ferry house mess gear was broken out and a supper of frankfurters, sauer kraut, ice cream, pie, milk, cake and oranges was served by the Red Cross. At Jersey City Pennsylvania terminal the Brigade was taken to Quantico on thirteen trains leaving at fifteen minute intervals, the last train getting out at 12:10 a. m. and arriving at Quantico at 1:00 p. m., August 9th.

At Quantico the company office force worked day and night closing out accounts and making up pay rolls, while the post quartermaster issued Marine Corps uniforms, campaign hats and barracks shoes to every man.

Tuesday, August 12th, the Battalion entrained at 7:00 a. m. for Washington, arriving at 8:30 a. m. After marching to position in Regimental column, men were allowed to fall out and rest until 12 noon when first call was sounded. The line of march was from the Peace Monument up Pennsylvania Avenue to Nineteenth, turning out to the south and returning to the Union Station. The formation was column of masses with six squads in each platoon. Men wore combat packs, arms, helmets and blouses. President Wilson, General March, Major General Barnett, Major General LeJeune and Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt, were in the reviewing stand. After parade Battalion marched to Union Station and entrained, leaving fifteen minutes ahead of schedule at 4:00 p. m. and arriving at Quantico at 5:30 p. m. Demobilization arrangements were

resumed immediately upon return of the men from Washington and the first elements of the Fifth Regiment were sent out on special trains early Wednesday morning, August 13th, followed by the Sixth in order, First, Second, Third Battalions, Headquarters, 73rd and supply companies.

At 3:30 p. m. the train bearing the demobilized men of the Third Battalion pulled out and the Third Battalion, Sixth Marines, one of the finest fighting organizations on the Western front, ceased to be.

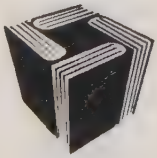
FINIS.

# Treasure of Books

## Under One Roof

## Demand Any Rare Book at

**www.facsimilepublisher.com**



**Demand Any Rare Book at:**

**www.facsimilepublisher.com**

if not available, give information,
*our team will search and update you.*

**Promote Knowledge:**

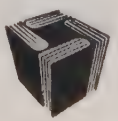
If you have any rare book
which is not available at
www.facsimilepublisher.com,
offer it to other readers so that others can also be
benefitted with your cooperation.
*The book will be printed with your courtesy.*

**Print & Publish:**

If you wish to get your book printed or published,
we have the service for you.

**Customization on Demand:**

We offer customization of books
as per the demand of the customer.

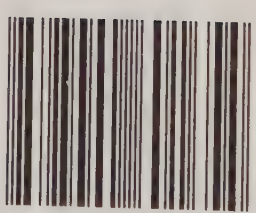


*Published by*

**Facsimile Publisher**
Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052 (India)
Website: www.facsimilepublisher.com

*Distributed by*

**Gyan Books Pvt. Ltd.**
5, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002 (India)
E-mail: books@gyanbooks.com, Website: www.gyanbooks.com


8 888000 601654